**BUSINESS** / B1

**Peso resumes** climb, closes at 44.05 to $1

**BUSINESS FRIDAY**/ B2-1

**Pilferage, theft** constant threat to retailers

**NEWS** / A2

**CHEd project** overpriced by P150M

**ACROSS** / A19

**Body of maid** slain in Canada comes home

**WORLD** / A24

**Ex-PM Bhutto returns** home to Pakistan, vows to restore democracy

## De Venecia OKs House inquiry into cash gifts

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA YESTERDAY gave his blessing to a proposed House investigation into the alleged cash gifts to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang last week amid a new attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

DE VENECIA/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, October 19, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 313 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

## Make sure I'm dead; put a phone in my coffin

LONDON—BURY ME naked. Put a mobile phone in the coffin. Cremate me with my pet's ashes. Bury me with my teeth in. And do make sure I'm actually dead.

MAKE SURE/ A6

ABANTE: Heeding clamor for truth

# Abante: President no longer present during cash handouts

By Norman Bordadora

MANILA REP. BIENVENIDO ABANTE, CORrecting an INQUIRER report, yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo was not around when men in *barong tagalog* distributed glossy paper bags containing cash to congressmen in Malacañang.

"She was no longer there. I don't know if she was still in Malacañang but definitely she was no longer around when the distribution happened," Abante told the INQUIRER.

In its Thursday issue, the INQUIRER reported Abante as saying that Ms Arroyo was present when men—and, by some other accounts, women—gave out paper bags containing money to the lawmakers during the breakfast meeting at the Palace.

Abante, however, stood by his account that he received P500,000—in five bundles of P100,000 each—contained in the paper bag.

Abante, who is now in the United Arab

ABANTE: PRESIDENT/ A5

## *PDI apologizes for error in Manila solon's story*

IN THE TWO-STAR EDITION OF the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Thursday, the banner headline read: "GMA present, says solon."

As in the first-star edition ("Preacher lawmaker confesses getting gift"), the story erroneously attributed to Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante the statement that the distribution of money to officials during the Oct. 11 meeting in Malacañang "was done in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

On discovering the mistake, the INQUIRER yesterday issued the following statement:

"The Philippine Daily Inquirer deeply regrets that it inadvertently reported in Thursday's issue that Rep. Bienvenido Abante

PDI APOLOGIZES/ A5

# GMA-De Venecia war on

## There's so much distrust between them, sources say

By Tony S. Bergonia and Michael Lim Ubac

TENSION BETWEEN PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. has degenerated into a silent war involving surveillance and secret meetings, officials close to the warring camps disclosed.

While two of the highest officials of the land put on smiling faces in public when they meet, sources close to the two told the INQUIRER the relationship between them had deteriorated to its lowest level in the nine years that they have been dealing with each other.

Ms Arroyo was the vice presidential candidate of De Venecia when he ran for president and lost in 1998.

"There's so much distrust now (between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia)," said one official of the Arroyo administration, who discussed the subject with the INQUIRER on condition he won't be identified discussing matters that are confidential.

"It's come to the point when they had to constantly look behind them," said the source, a former Cabinet member who was retained as an Arroyo adviser.

The falling out reached depths

GMA-DE VENECIA/ A6

ONCE the closest of allies, relations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia have taken a downturn following revelations by the Speaker's son of a bribery scandal that involved the President's husband. Photo taken on Oct. 10 at the Manila Hotel. LYN RILLON

PRESIDENT'S MEN. Executive Secretary Ermita is forced to deny talks of a rift with Interior Secretary Puno on wake of rumors. INQUIRER PHOTO

## Ermita denies quitting post, hits rumors

By Michael Lim Ubac

RESPONDING TO TALK OF HIS RESIGnation from the Cabinet, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday announced that he was sticking with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At a press conference, Ermita said rumors were being spread to give the impression that the President's alter egos were in disarray following the admission of a number of congressmen and governors that they received money from Malacañang functionaries on Oct. 11.

The talk was that Ermita was quitting or had quit because of Ms Arroyo's decision not to sack another Cabinet member who was responsible for the distribution of money to 190 congressmen and 48 governors.

But Ermita said: "It's not true. It's part of another effort to sow intrigues. They want to show that the administration is having [internal] troubles ... that the administration is in disarray."

As early as Wednesday, Malacañang and opposition circles were abuzz with talk over Ermita's supposed resignation.

One of the coffee shop accounts, coming from an opposition leader, said Ermita was angry with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno over the cash handouts.

Sought for comment, Puno described the talk as "total disinformation and intrigue."

"I don't need anyone to rescue me," he said when asked if Ms Arroyo was protecting him from being blamed for the cash handouts.

"I had nothing to do with all that and can take care of myself, thank you. I

ERMITA/ A17

## 3 anti-GMA bishops lead renewed demand for President to resign post

By Beverly T. Natividad, Michael Lim Ubac and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF President Macapagal-Arroyo became stronger yesterday with three prelates saying they would lead a renewed demand for her to step down amid the controversies hounding her administration.

Archbishop Emeritus Julio Labayen of Infanta, Quezon, Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches, and Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan—standing as advisers of the nongovernment organization Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME)—said they would launch a mass movement to urge the President to step down for "not having the moral ascendancy to stay in office."

Iñiguez told the INQUIRER that issues such as the since shelved National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp., the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, and Malacañang's purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local officials had strengthened the KME's doubts on the present governance.

"The country needs the strength to walk again on a more stable situation, and one solution is for the President to step down," Iñiguez said.

He said the call for Ms Arroyo's resignation had become urgent because the KME believed that the sooner she stepped down, the sooner would be the Philippines' recovery.

But in Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reiterated that his boss would not resign her post.

"The President has a mandate to serve up to 2010," he said.

Asked if the controversies were part of a systematic effort to destroy the administration, Bunye said: "What we can say is that these are distractions, but we will not allow ourselves to be

3 ANTI-GMA/ A17

## Palace defends GMA order in bribery probe

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACANANG YESTERDAY DEFENDed President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for a "thorough investigation" by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) of the purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local officials on Oct. 11.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the PAGC was the only antigraft body that could be easily ordered by Ms Arroyo to conduct the inquiry.

"The most independent here is the [Office of the] Ombudsman, but we all know that the President can't just order [it]. So what the President did was

PALACE DEFENDS/ A18

## Eastwood City developer RP's newest billionaire

ANDREW TAN, THE SON OF A POOR immigrant factory worker from China, has reportedly become the newest addition in more than a decade to the ranks of billionaires in the Philippines.

After restructuring his holding company Alliance Global, Tan's net worth more than doubled to $1.1 billion from $480 million, Forbes Asia magazine said in its 2007 Philippine Rich List published yesterday.

Tan made his fortune from three major businesses—property, alcohol and fast-food restaurants.

His wealth propelled him to fourth place on Forbes Asia's ranking of the 40 richest people in the Philippines.

Property and telecommunications tycoon Jaime Zobel de Ayala and family jumped from third to first place with a net worth of $2 billion.

EASTWOOD CITY/ A18

ANDREW TAN: No. 4 in Forbes list of 40 richest people in RP INQUIRER PHOTO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over the Bicol region which may trigger possible flashfloods and landslides. Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Mostly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Mostly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
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# CHEd project overpriced by P150M

## Probers report anomalies in P550-M call center lab

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE P550-MILLION CALL CENTER LABORATORY project of the Commission on Higher Education is overpriced by more than P150 million, among other irregularities, according to a report by a CHEd investigating team.

The 28-page "confidential" report, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, cited "excess projects costs" for civil works and pre-operating expenses, amounting to P66.72 million and P87.31 million, respectively.

CHEd investigators also questioned the P94.3-million budget for equipment and software for the project, known as the Integrated Multisite Business Process Outsourcing Incubation Contact Centers (IMBPO-ICC) which is aimed at assisting state universities and colleges in setting up their own call center training laboratories.

The probe team's report was submitted last week to CHEd Chair Romulo Neri who ordered the inquiry.

Neri earlier this month announced he was suspending payments to e-Services Global Solutions, the consortium that was awarded the project, pending the results of the investigation.

Copies of the report were sent this week to the Office of the President and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

The Commission on Audit, meanwhile, will conduct next week a special pricing and technical audit of the project at the request of Neri.

CHEd investigators said the IMBPO-ICC would be a losing operation for the government. They said the CHEd will recover only P126 million in lease payments during the five-year duration of the project from e-Services Global Solutions.

The report said the interests of the commission were not protected in the contract with the consortium, noting the absence of a provision for a share in the revenues of the call centers.

The contract also did not include a clause on the transfer of technology that would allow state universities and colleges to operate the call centers after the five-year contract.

e-Services Global Solutions also includes Drishti Phil., Information Transmission Computer Control and Hillmarc Construction Corp.

The CHEd probe team said the agency's bids and awards committee should have declared a failure of bidding when after the prequalification process, it appeared that there was only one eligible bidder for the project.

"There were grounds to do so. Given the magnitude of the project, it would have been prudent to do so," said the report.

The committee is chaired by CHEd Deputy Executive Director Julito Vitriolo, with Evelyn Mojica as vice chair and Regina Fortes, Ronaldo Liveta and Bernard Caballero as members. Vitriolo has repeatedly said the project bidding was above board.

A CHEd commissioner, Nona Ricafort, has disowned the actions of the bids and awards committee, claiming that she was "totally misled and deceived" by the panel as to the conceptualization, bidding and awarding of the IMBPO-ICC project.

Ricafort asked Neri to investigate the project, including the bidding process, "for possible fraud."

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**COMELEC** supervisor going to jail soon /A8

**BICOL PRIEST** excommunicated for breaking confession seal /A8

## Court defers habeas corpus hearing on Jonas

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY deferred the hearing on the petition for habeas corpus which the family of Jonas Burgos had filed in seeking the disclosure of the Provost Marshal General report believed by the family as crucial in the search for the missing activist.

The court took the action because the military has a petition before the Supreme Court arguing against the issuance of a subpoena for the report.

But the next hearing scheduled for next week is expected to produce a different outcome because the rules governing the writ of amparo would already be in effect.

The Burgos family is planning to convert the habeas corpus petition into one for amparo, or altogether file a new petition for amparo. The hearing on Oct. 24 will take place on the same day the rules for the writ of amparo take effect.

"We are availing [ourselves] of this writ and we are very hopeful that we will find Jonas as soon as possible," Jonas' mother Edita told reporters. "We bow to the wisdom of the court to postpone the hearing for next week. Yet I fear that another week would endanger the life of my son."

The writ of amparo allows families of the disappeared to seek, among others, a production order for the disclosure or inspection of documents or objects relevant to the petition.

In deferring the hearing yesterday, Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando said the appellate court would wait at least a week for any action of the Supreme Court on the petition of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla for a temporary restraining order on the subpoena.

But Fernando also said the lawyers of Edita, who filed the habeas corpus petition, could present other witnesses, or the court could also ask the military brass to present their evidence.

The appellate court had twice denied the military's motion to quash the subpoena for the Provost Marshal General report. The military had argued that the report was confidential and presenting it before the court would be tantamount to declassifying it.

Edita was displeased with the military's petition for a TRO on the subpoena, noting that Esperon had said he would abide by the court ruling when the appellate court first denied the motion to quash.

"On the one hand, Gen. Esperon says he will follow the order of the court, then he filed this petition for a temporary restraining order. So he says one thing and does another thing. I think they really do not want to release it. They are hiding something," she told reporters.

## *Opera music ushers in new MMCO season*

LOVERS OF BEAUTIFUL MUSIC will be entertained when the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO) opens its 7th concert season tomorrow with Camille Lopez-Molina, Lionel Guico, Jennifer Uy-Wong, and Randy Gilongo, stars of Philippine Opera Company (POC).

The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. at the BDO North Tower in Makati.

The MMCO will present some of the most beautiful arias from Tosca, Turandot, Gianni Schicchi, Andrea Chenier, The Pearl Fishers, Barber of Seville, Norma, Rigoletto, Porgy and Bess, and Noli Me Tangere.

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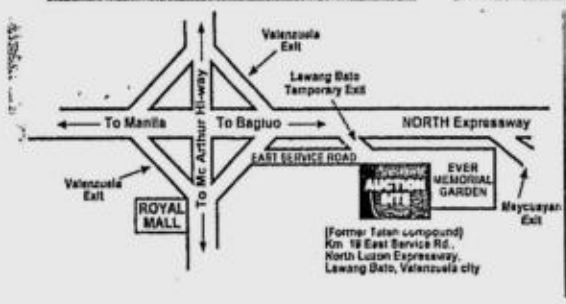


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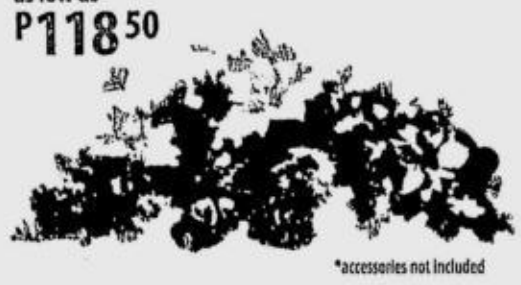

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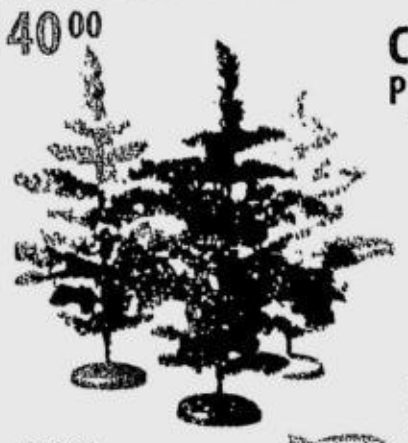

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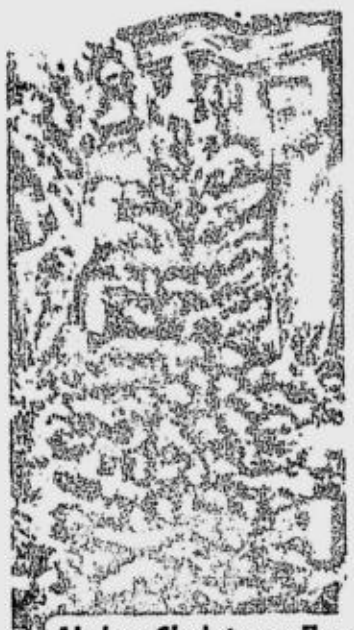

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## Corrections

IN THE OCT. 8 ISSUE, A LIFESTYLE ARTIcle and headline on Page E2 — "Alfonso T. Ongpin, art collector and Rizalist (1875-1975)"—misstated the subject's birth year. The Alfonso T. Ongpin was born in 1885—not 1875.

* * *

THE SAME ARTICLE MISSPELLED THE name of the contributor of the accompanying photos. The contributor's name is Jovan—not Joven—Soriano. The writer of the article is Cynthia O. Valdes.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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**BOOKS FOR MUNTI KIDS**
Pro V International CEO and chairman Ajit Nair (center) turns over the books donated to nine daycare center in Buli, Cupang Muntinlupa City. The book donation was received by Rep. Ruffy Biazon (standing, right) during yesterday's "Paligsining 2007" Children's Week program . Also in photo are Karsten Steen Sorensen (left), vice president; John Killion(right), country manager; and Sarav Chandran (left, standing). Pro-V is a leading IT provider in the Philippines. RUDY ESPERAS

# Gov't stalling peace talks–NDF

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS poised to sign a peace agreement with Muslim separatists, peace talks with communist insurgents remain on hold because of many "impediments" that the government has not acted on, the communist-led National Democratic Front said yesterday.

Luis Jalandoni, the chair of the negotiating panel of the Netherlands-based NDF, said if the impediments are not removed, the Communist Party of the Philippines may just seek a resumption of the talks after the elections in 2010.

The clearing away of the impediments is a matter of compliance with existing agreements of the government and the NDF, Jalandoni said in a statement.

He said the main barriers to talks were the government's demand for the "capitulation of the NDF under the guise of indefinite ceasefire," the filing of rebellion charges against CPP leaders, Malacañang's support for the recent arrest of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison, and the killing of leftist leaders and other dissidents.

Other impediments cited by Jalandoni were the continuing US military "intervention" in the Philippines, the implementation of the Anti-terror Law, non-release of political detainees, "fake" localized peace negotiations, and the alleged use of recovered Marcos loot in the 2004 election campaign. *Jerome Aning*


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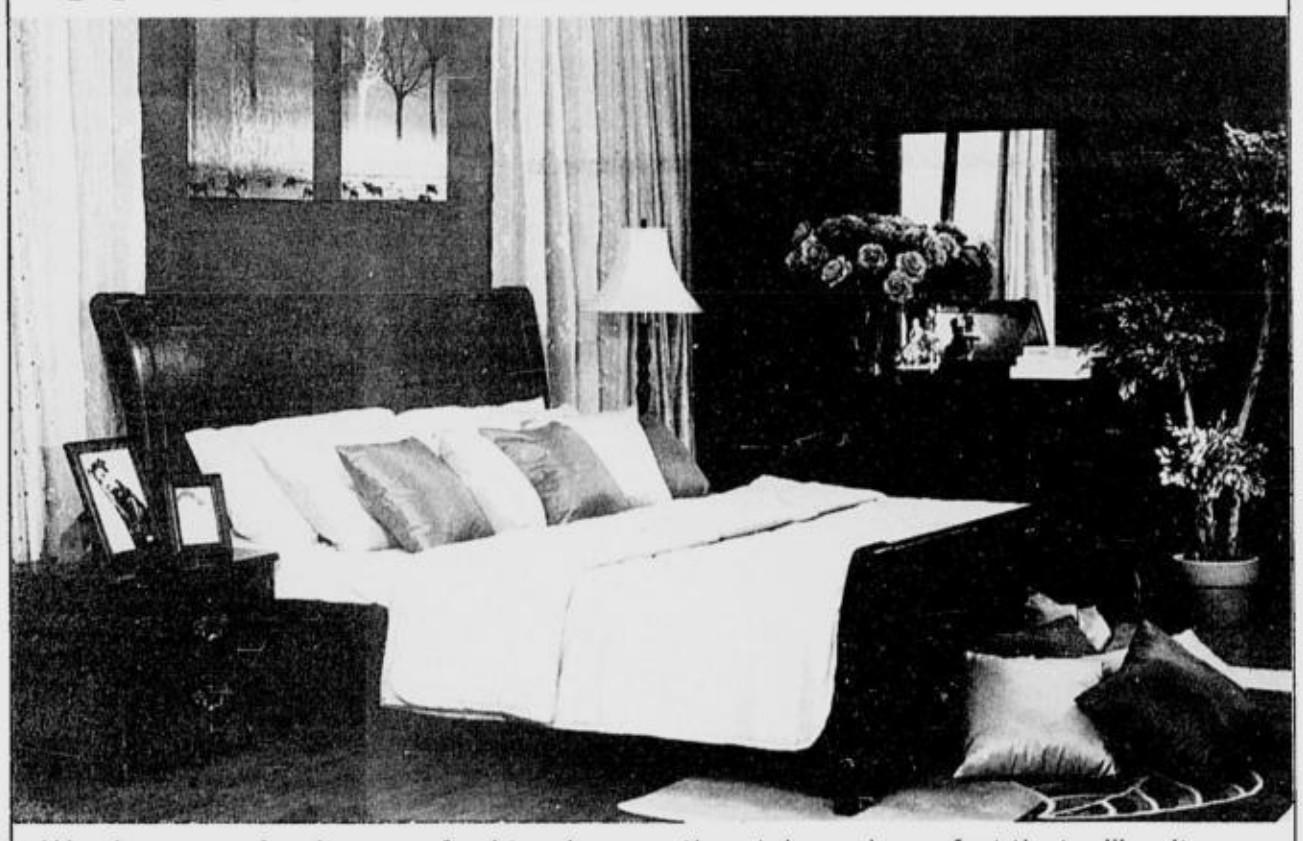

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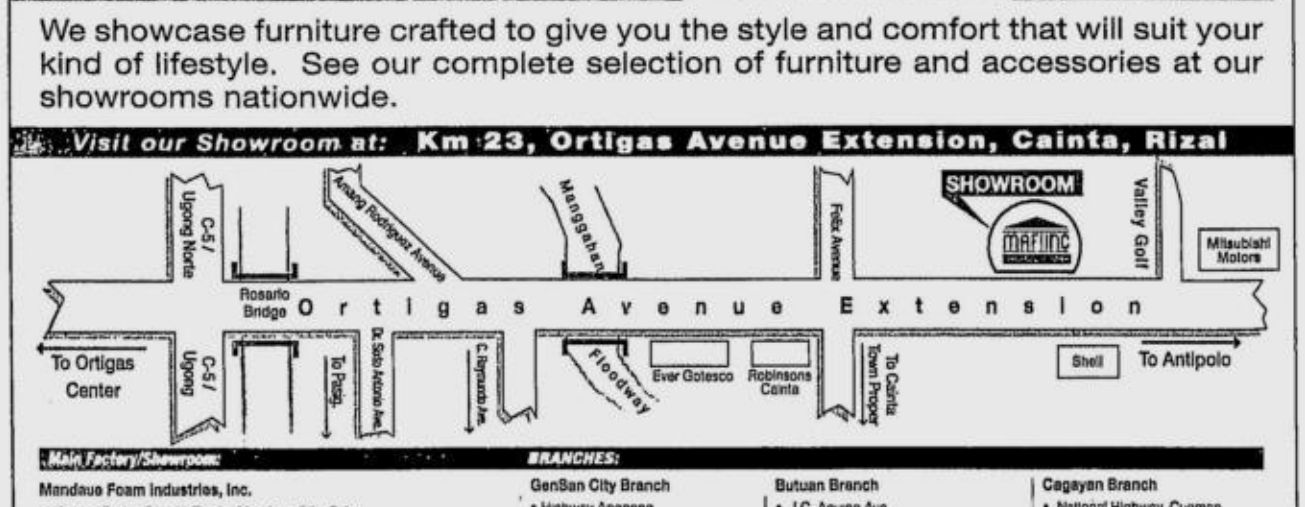


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# 7M Pinoys stand up, speak out vs poverty

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEVEN MILLION FILIPINOS PLEDGED TO eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 as part of the "Stand Up Speak Out campaign" sponsored by the United Nations during the observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty on Wednesday.

The UN Information Center based in Makati City said a total of 7,106,478 million Filipinos took part in the nationwide whole-day Stand Up events, exceeding the initial target of three million.

It said the largest numbers were delivered by World Vision Development Foundation (4.2 million), the Health and Nutrition Center of the Department of Education Region VIII (2.6 million), the Samahan ng Mamamayan—Zone One Tondo Organization (SM-Zoto, 121,000) and the Isabela Provincial Government (94,487). The results were tabulated by the accounting firm Sycip, Gorres and Velayo (SGV).

Initiated in 2006 by the United Nations Millennium Campaign, Stand Up is a worldwide call to take action against poverty and inequality and for the achievement of the MDGs.

On Wednesday, millions literally stood up and spoke out to show that they refuse to stay silent or be seated in the face of poverty.

The 2007 campaign sought to break the Guinness world record set last year and underscore the need for leaders to keep their promises on the MDGs. The campaign is being intensified as the midpoint of the 2015 timeline of the MDGs is in 2007.

The Philippine theme for the campaign is "Kumilos, Manindigan! Labanan ang Kahirapan!" and was led by the UN, National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), ATD Fourth World and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP).

In 2006, the Stand Up campaign generated a Guinness world record of 24 million people from 87 countries standing up against poverty. The Philippines ranked third in the Asia-Pacific region with 2.4 million Filipinos joining the campaign, after India (nine million) and Nepal (over three million).

"We are grateful for the support of partners in government and civil society, and the active participation of all UN agencies in the country, which enabled us to exceed our target. This has also brought greater awareness among people, especially the young, about what the MDGs are and what we need to do to attain them," said Suneeta Mukherjee, chairperson of the UN Country Team Advocacy Group.

"We hope these events will catalyze a most important change—the eradication of extreme poverty within our lifetime. We in the Philippines also have to keep an eye on a number of critical MDGs so we can stay on track of meeting them by 2015," she added.

# New solon heads new committee

TARLAC REP. MONICA "NIKKI" PRIETO-Teodoro has vowed she would do her best to promote the interest of children and special people following her appointment as chair of the House committee on the welfare of children and special persons.

The newly established committee, which will tackle issues and deliberate legislative measures concerning the interests and well-being of children and people with special needs, is the first of its kind to be established in Congress.

"The creation of this committee will certainly ensure that proper legislative measures will be passed to uplift the welfare of children," Prieto-Todoro said in a press statement.

She added that the independent committee she now heads would expedite not only the passing of new laws, but also the vigilant monitoring of its implementation.

The committee is mandated to deliberate on matters directly and principally relating to the needs, education and overall welfare of Filipino children and persons with special needs. The committee will also be responsible for ensuring the availability of the sector's continuing access to affordable and appropriate programs and resources.

Although a neophyte in the House, Prieto-Teodoro has been an active advocate of children's rights and welfare.

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NISSAN

# Defense chief dismisses talk of military unrest

By Alcuin Papa

DEFENSE SECRETARY GILBERT Teodoro yesterday dismissed suggestions of a potential unrest in the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a result of allegations Malacañang bribed politicians to squelch a new attempt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I can say categorically that the Armed Forces is solid and united behind the chain of command and political issues like this will not affect their duties and responsibilities," Teodoro said.

"She is the duly constituted President of the republic and the Armed Forces will stand behind (her)," Teodoro told reporters a day after Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the Arroyo administration should heed warnings of military restiveness arising from reports of payoffs while troops await a long-promised combat pay raise.

Teodoro said the AFP was "focused on its task" to go after communist rebels and members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). Teodoro said his department was also focused on reforms in the Armed Forces. "Political issues are not the focus of the AFP."

When asked what he would say to soldiers agitated by the bribery issue, Teodoro said the

TEODORO

DOLORFINO

soldiers "know their duties. I don't need to remind them about it."

The defense chief's statement was echoed by Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP spokesperson.

"We do believe that at this very point in time, the AFP remains to be a very very solid organization and efforts to create an atmosphere of divisiveness through propaganda, through false rumors will continue to fail," Bacarro told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

He also stressed that the AFP was a "professional" organization. "(The soldiers) know what they need to do and what they are not supposed to do."

Bacarro also said the AFP would not involve itself in any type of "adventurism" and would not in any way "be disturbed by what is happening. We will remain focused on the job that we have to do."

On Wednesday, Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, the Philippine Marine commandant, admitted that troops have been affected by allegations that Malacañang has been bribing local officials to support President Arroyo in the face of a new impeachment complaint.

Dolorfino also stressed the need for military unity and neutrality, warning that a civil war could break out should soldiers join attempts to overthrow the government.

# Abante: President no longer present during cash handouts

From page A1

Emirates, said he was sure Ms Arroyo would not take it against him for telling the truth about the P500,000 he got in a floral paperbag.

"Many members of the media have been asking me. And members of my congregation are also asking me about it," Abante said in a long distance phone call.

"I cannot in conscience and in view of my faith remain quiet when the people clamor for the truth," he added.

## Malacañang staffer

Abante is a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD coalition and is a baptist minister.

"I'm sure the President will understand," Abante said, adding he still considered Ms Arroyo an ally.

Radio dzMM said yesterday Abante had told the radio station he had explained to Ms Arroyo his statement about a member of "the staff of Malacañang" giving him the money.

Abante told the INQUIRER he never thought the money given to congressmen was a bribe.

## Was she there or not there?

"If I realized it was a bribe I would not have accepted it," Abante said.

A member of the majority, who refused to be identified because he did not want to antagonize Malacañang, told the INQUIRER that he had learned from others at the meeting that Ms Arroyo was, indeed, around when the paper bags were distributed.

The majority member said he was at the breakfast early but also left early. He said he was not around when the cash gifts were given.

"But the congressmen I talked to told me she was there," the source said.

## Heads must roll

A member of the opposition, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, said it was unlikely Ms Arroyo didn't know about the distribution of funds.

"In the most unlikely event that it happened right under her nose yet she did not know about it, the question has to be asked, 'Is she still in control?'" Casino said.

"It means her people are taking such matters in their hands without even considering it's fatal impact on her presidency," he added.

Casino said some officials had to be given the boot.

"Heads should roll and if it isn't the President's, it should be at least her top lieutenants," Casino said.

# PDI apologizes for error in Manila solon's story

From page A1

said President Macapagal-Arroyo was present during the distribution of cash handouts to politicians last Thursday. Abante said the President was not present.

"The INQUIRER apologizes.

"We are looking into the news editing system to ensure that our news sources are quoted accurately."

How did the mistake happen?

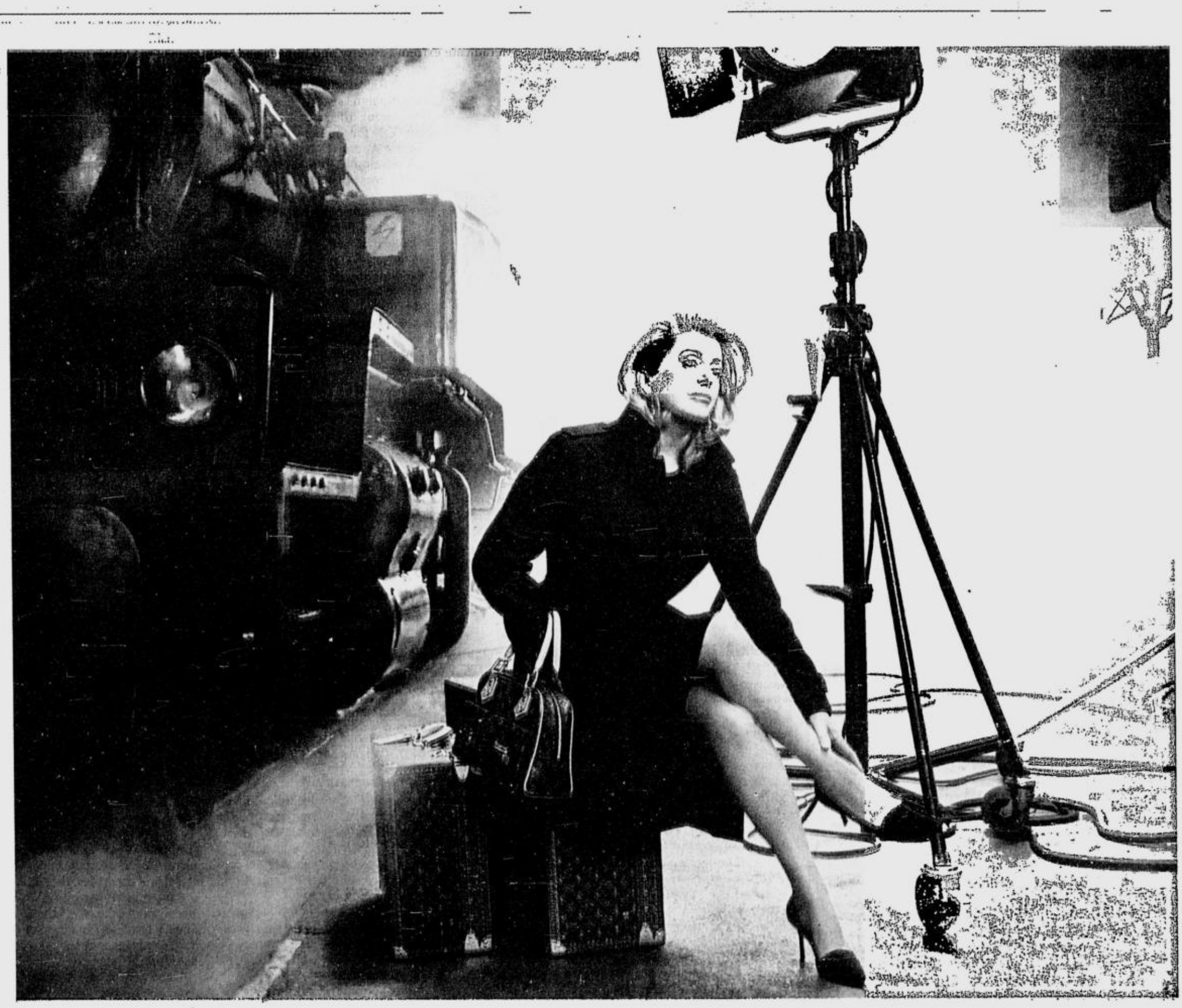
The reporter inadvertently dropped the word "not" in the sentence regarding Ms Arroyo's whereabouts while cash envelopes were being distributed among lawmakers.

Instead of the phrase, "Abante said Ms Arroyo was not present ...," the reporter's copy read: "Abante said Ms Arroyo was present ..."

The mistake went undetected in the editing of the story. Without double-checking with the reporter, the News Desk decided to highlight this element of the story—GMA's presence—in the one-star edition of Thursday's issue. The News Desk later decided to make this the banner story in the second and final edition.

While the rest of our account of Abante's disclosure was accurate, the INQUIRER fouled up on this important part of his statement.

To the INQUIRER, respect for the truth also means if we are wrong, we correct it promptly.



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IN THE KNOW

## Numbers game

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS A total of 239 members. Of this number, 219 are district representatives, while 20 are sectoral or party-list representatives.

The dominant parties in the House are Lakas with 92 members and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) with 44 members.

| AFFILIATION | MEMBERS |
|---|---|
| Lakas[1] | 92 |
| Kampi[2] | 44 |
| Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC)[3] | 28 |
| Liberal Party (LP) | 22 |
| United Opposition (UNO)[4] | 10 |
| Nacionalista Party (NP) | 8 |
| Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) | 3 |
| Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-LABAN) | 3 |
| Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) | 3 |
| Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) | 1 |
| Kilusang Diwa ng Taguig (KDT) | 1 |
| Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) | 1 |
| Independent | 3 |
| Party-List | 20 |
| TOTAL | 239 |

[1] Includes Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD), Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats (Lakas-NUCD), LAKAS-KAMPI
[2] Includes NPC-KAMPI, KAMPI-NP, KAMPI-LDP
[3] Includes KAMPI-LAKAS-NPC
[4] Includes NP/UNO, PMP-UNO, LP-UNO, UNO-PDSP, UNO/PDP LABAN and UNO-LDP

Source: House of Representatives website

Among the 20 party-list representatives, six are affiliated with known militant groups (Akbayan! Citizens' Action Party or Akbayan, Anakpawis, Bayan Muna and Gabriela Women's Party).

The rest of the party-list groups are the Advocacy For Teacher Empowerment Through Action, Cooperation And Harmony Towards Educational Reforms Inc. (A TEACHER); Abono; Agricultural Sectoral Alliance of the Philippines (Agap); An Waray; Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec); Alliance of Rural Concerns (ARC); Buhay Hayaan Yumabong (Buhay); Butil Farmers Party (Butil); Citizens' Battle against Corruption (Cibac); Cooperative-Natco Network Party (Coop Natco) and Anak Mindanao (Amin).

In 2005, the 236-member House upheld the committee on justice report dismissing three impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo (158 voted yes, 51 voted no, six abstained and 21 were absent).

The following year, the House again junked an impeachment complaint against the President with a vote of 173-32, with one abstention.

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

# Senator urges GMA to 'come clean' on over ₱600M in unliquidated funds

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION should "come clean" on over P600 million in unliquidated and unaccounted funds last year, amid the brouhaha over the source of cash gifts given to local government officials and congressmen in Malacañang, according to Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

"The seeming cloak of secrecy raises suspicions of slush money being paid out in the guise of humanitarian spending. Until such things are explained, the public's mistrust of the administration will remain," Roxas said.

He cited a Commission on Audit report in 2006 that the Office of the President had accumulated P615.3 million in unliquidated cash advances to 61 offices, as well as P269.5 million taken from the President's Social Fund for loans to small and medium enterprises in 2003 and January 2004 that were not properly accounted for.

The report also stated that P112.1 million worth of funds transferred to government agencies and other nongovernment organizations were erroneously booked, and that dormant accounts had totaled P293.9 million as of December 2006.

It said the Office of the President either overstated or understated its reports, reflecting discrepancies amounting to millions of pesos.

If the Palace does not address the audit report immediately, it will only fan further public suspicions on the way the administration has been giving away its money, Roxas said.

"I acknowledge the humanitarian use of such funds under the law, but I urge transparency to preclude politically motivated spending," he said.

"If the Palace had all the good intentions in using these funds, it should not hesitate to publish regular reports of the President's direct social interventions, including the reasons and the beneficiaries."

*Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

# GMA-De Venecia war on

From page A1

unimaginable to their aides a year ago as a result of the Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, coming out to reveal a bribery scandal that involved the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

### Crossing invisible line

Although Ms Arroyo and De Venecia declared they won't move to destroy one another, lieutenants of Ms Arroyo and De Venecia were quietly crossing an invisible line that was drawn to keep them from going for each other's throats.

De Venecia, according to officials who had been monitoring the House of Representatives for Ms Arroyo, was quietly meeting with congressmen and people who wield influence over legislators to gather at least 80 signatures of House members for what is being described as a weak impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

House rules allow the automatic transmission to the Senate of an impeachment complaint that carries the endorsement of at least 80 members of the House. Pulido's was the third against Ms Arroyo in as many years.

The endorsement by 80 lawmakers of the weak Pulido complaint could unlock the closet that held the administration's skeletons.

The Senate, as an impeachment court, carries extraordinary powers to summon witnesses and subpoena documents and bank records during trial of an impeachable official.

It last displayed how vast this power was during the trial of disgraced President Joseph Estrada that was cut short by people power.

"He (De Venecia) has been going around ... with groups of congressmen asking about the impeachment. He's testing the waters," a Malacañang official yesterday said.

The official, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue, said "President Arroyo already knew about the Speaker's movements."

### Oct. 11 meeting

The quiet gathering of 80 signatures prompted the Palace to enlist the support of members of the House who were called to Malacañang on Oct. 11 for an agenda that wasn't made clear.

Several congressmen, including Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu, admitted receiving up to P500,000 from Palace functionaries after that meeting.

A Cabinet member said the gathering was called to make an inventory of congressmen who would remain loyal to Ms Arroyo and shun De Venecia's attempt to fast-forward the impeachment complaint to the Senate.

It turned out that the numbers were on the side of Ms Arroyo as 190 members of the House turned up, although not all of them were there at one time.

De Venecia came late to the meeting because, according to Palace sources involved in preparing Ms Arroyo's guest list, he was not on the list of people who were scheduled to meet the President that day.

"*Humabol lang* (He just caught up)," said one Palace source who got hold of the guest list.

During the meeting, according to a Cabinet official's staff who monitored it, Ms Arroyo's "unspecified desire was to keep JDV (De Venecia) in tow but not to protect him."

"If JDV behaved, he won't be removed, but if he didn't the President knew what to do," said the source, who requested that he not be identified for fear of losing his job if the leak of confidential information was traced to him.

At that meeting, De Venecia asked to talk with Ms Arroyo alone, but was told by the President that if they were going to talk, it should be in front of the other lawmakers who were there, said a Palace official who was at the meeting.

### Reforms

When the conversation with Ms Arroyo came, according to a Cabinet member who witnessed it, De Venecia raised the topic of reforms in government.

De Venecia earlier raised this same issue with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno during a break at a hearing of the proposed budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government in the House, according to one of Puno's staff members who witnessed the encounter.

"How about our reform program?" the source recalled De Venecia telling Puno during that budget hearing break.

Puno, reached for comment, refused to either confirm or deny this.

When the plan to shortcut the impeachment process was found out, De Venecia had tried to reach out to Ms Arroyo and some Cabinet members to deny that there was such a plan, according to sources who knew of phone calls that De Venecia made to the President and some Cabinet men.

One of the Cabinet men who took a call from De Venecia after the plan was discovered was Puno, according to the sources.

"Speaker, what happened?," an aide to Puno recalled the interior secretary as asking De Venecia at one phone conversation during which De Venecia was asked to explain.

"*Ah, eh* ...," was how De Venecia answered, according to the aide, recalling how Puno narrated the phone conversation.

"He (De Venecia) was grasping for answers," said the source, who refused to be identified for fear his boss would berate him for revealing confidential information.

### Behave

Through that meeting, according to the sources, Ms Arroyo sent a "strong signal for JDV to behave."

"If JDV made a move, she (Ms Arroyo) knew what to do," said the source, who didn't want to be identified for fear of being cut off in the circle of the President's close advisers.

Asked if De Venecia had been successful so far, the Malacañang official said: "I don't think, he's been very successful. He knows it will not succeed."

The official said the Speaker was "not yet a credible threat."

"It's not yet an all-out war. We have not yet moved. We will move accordingly ... in due time," the official said.

The source said that Palace officials "don't feel threatened at this point," and that the President was "still in control."

### Preparation for battle

De Venecia had prepared for battle even before his son came out in the open to expose the bribery scandal in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with Chinese firm ZTE Corp., according to officials of Lakas-CMD close to him. De Venecia is the president of Lakas-CMD, while Ms Arroyo is its chair.

The Speaker's wife, Gina, had been monitored meeting with opposition and staunch Arroyo nemesis Sen. Panfilo Lacson over the impending testimony of Joey De Venecia.

A Palace official, who was briefed on a surveillance report on Gina's meeting with Lacson, said Gina was seeking the support of Lacson for the younger De Venecia just as the younger De Venecia was preparing to testify in the Senate last month.

De Venecia himself met with Lacson at the house of a bank executive, according to sources who knew of the meeting.

Lacson, in an SMS message to the INQUIRER, admitted he met with the Speaker, but said the topic was not Ms Arroyo's ouster.

Lacson said De Venecia raised the possibility of Lacson reconciling with Ms Arroyo.

Lacson said he made clear that one condition for him to reconcile with Ms Arroyo was "GMA (Ms Arroyo) should stop or at least not tolerate corruption at all levels, starting with her own office."

"Then I would seriously consider his (De Venecia's) offer (to reconcile with Ms Arroyo)," Lacson said in a text message.

### Japanese restaurant

The senator also admitted to meeting by chance with Gina at Tsukiji, a Japanese restaurant in Makati where, Lacson said, "we dined separately."

"There was no conversation except the usual 'Hi' and 'Hello' and 'Good night,'" Lacson said.

De Venecia also met with Lacson at the bank executive's house shortly before his son testified in the Senate on Sept. 18, sources from De Venecia's and Lacson's camps said.

The exact date of the meeting between the Speaker and Lacson was not determined, but the sources said De Venecia had at one point expressed agreement that it was time for Ms Arroyo to be impeached.

"The only thing that he was worried about was who would replace GMA (Ms Arroyo)," said one source who knew what transpired at the meeting between De Venecia and Lacson.

Describing the discussion between De Venecia and Lacson as "just exploratory, scenario-building," the source said De Venecia backed off at the thought of Vice President Noli de Castro taking over Ms Arroyo.

The prospect of the second official in the line of succession, Senate President Manuel Villar, taking over also cropped up in the discussion, according to the source, but it was a scenario that didn't appeal to Lacson, who had at one time accused Villar of being a fake oppositionist.

The discussion went as far as the fourth official in the line of succession, Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

It was a scenario that appealed to both De Venecia and Lacson, according to the source, but how it was to happen was left hanging in the air.

### Contact with Corazon Aquino

De Venecia had also made contact with former President Corazon Aquino, though it wasn't clear whether it was through an emissary or by himself, to seek support for the possibility of impeaching Ms Arroyo, according to reports that reached Ms Arroyo from a surveillance team that reported directly to Puno.

Unverified text messages circulated about the meeting saying De Venecia's crusade didn't appeal to Ms Aquino because the former President didn't trust the Speaker.

Ms Aquino's support was sought for her perceived influence over civil society groups, which helped oust Estrada in 2001.

Sources in the opposition camp said De Venecia had also approached Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, a close ally and former lawyer of Estrada, for the possibility of getting the commitment of the opposition bloc in the House for a shortcut of the impeachment process.

Malacañang continued to play coy about the souring relationship between the President and the Speaker, at least officially.

### Political noise

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters on Wednesday that Ms Arroyo was just ignoring the "political noise."

"The President said she will not be distracted by controversy," he said.

Puno, Ms Arroyo's concurrent political affairs adviser, denied that the President and De Venecia had already parted ways.

"Except for some individual congressmen in Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino) who have some historic differences with the Speaker personally, Kampi as a party has a very strong relationship with Lakas," said Puno at a press conference Wednesday.

Kampi is Ms Arroyo's own party. "Lakas is Kampi's closest ally in Congress. They are our our senior partner because they have the most number of members," he said.

Puno said Ms Arroyo was "secure in the support of all the administration allies in Congress and the Senate. The House is loyal and supportive of the President."

Asked about the "silent tension" between the two leaders, Puno said he could not second-guess the congressmen.

"In our case (Kampi), we don't need to choose (between Ms Arroyo and De Venecia). We're with the President all the time against anybody," Puno said. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

## *Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. on 'dark plots'*

- ON MEETING WITH SEN. PANFILO Lacson for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster:

"I have never talked to the opposition regarding impeachment. The last time I met with Senator Lacson was a month ago."

- On the possible impeachment of Ms Arroyo:

"Impeachment is the last thing on my mind. In fact, I would be meeting with the President next week to discuss my proposal against corruption."

- On reports that he was gathering 80 signatures:

"That's not true."

- On his wife's meeting with Lacson:

"My wife Gina talked with some of our friends in the Senate because our son was about to take the stand. He was like a babe going in the woods." *Norman Bordadora*

# Make sure I'm dead ...

From page A1

Those were some of the most popular requests by people planning their funerals, according to research by the British charity Age Concern, which promotes the interests of elderly people.

Britain is known for being a nation of animal lovers and it seems Britons cannot bear to be separated from their beloved pets—even when both parties are dead.

Age Concern Funeral Plans polled more than 100,000 of its customers and found that being buried with their pet's ashes was the most common funeral rite request.

But several top requests suggested many were worried about being buried alive, with those planning their funerals asking to be certified dead, a mirror to be held over their faces to check for vapor signs of breathing, and a mobile phone left in the coffin.

Others were related to appearance, such as being buried naked "as they came into the world" or with their false teeth in.

Top eight most common requests:

1. To be cremated with their pet's ashes;
2. To have a mobile phone in the coffin;
3. To ensure they are dead;
4. For a mirror to be held over the face to check for signs of breathing;
5. To be cremated naked;
6. To be buried in their own garden;
7. To be buried with their teeth in;
8. To be buried with all their savings. *AFP*

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# DFA warns OFWs anew text raffle scam

By Cynthia D. Balana

A TEXT SCAM REGARDING AN ELECtronic raffle supposedly sponsored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has duped Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Brazil, prompting the Department of Foreign Affairs to reiterate its warning against it.

In his report to the DFA, Philippine Ambassador to Brazil Teresita Barsana said the embassy had advised OFWs to disregard text messages informing them that they won P2 million from an electronic raffle draw allegedly sponsored by the BSP based on the last digits of the victim's mobile number.

Barsana bewailed attempts by unscrupulous individuals in the Philippines to deceive OFWs in Brasilia into participating in this text fraud which uses the name of "BSP Governor Artemio [sic] Tetangco" with contact number 639283948881.

According to Barsana, an OFW called the number and was able to speak with a man who introduced himself as "Governor Tetangco."

She said the man confirmed the existence of the raffle, as well as the prize money, and further claimed that the same was sanctioned by the Office of the President.

The victim was then advised of the procedure to claim her prize, i.e., to remit US$350.00 to a designated recipient through Western Union to supposedly cover tax payments and transmittal charges.

The victim was also instructed to contact another person, a certain "Atty. P.D. Ilagan" with mobile number 639157029178, purportedly the manager of a Western Union Branch in Makati City, who will provide the pin code once the remittance has been confirmed.

"The text scam used similar ruses as those previously circulated scams, in which perpetrators send series of text messages and accept calls to phone numbers they provide. Perpetrators convince their victims to wire-transfer a so-called processing fee," Barsana said.

The BSP has issued a public advisory on the matter, denying its participation in such games or raffles.

The DFA has advised overseas Filipinos to refrain from responding to similar text messages, and to immediately report cases to the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consulate General for proper action.

It said a similar scam victimizing OFWs was also reported in Europe, particularly in Britain, Belgium and The Netherlands as well as in Canada.

The BSP has said it was not engaged in an any electronic raffle for OFWs or any similar scheme which promised big amounts for overseas Filipinos.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who is also presidential adviser on OFWs, earlier called on unscrupulous individuals to stop victimizing OFWs and their hard-earned money abroad.

De Castro said it was unfortunate that such a scheme proliferated, which also contributed to the country's bad image abroad.

# Dela Cruz; 86

EUGENIA AQUINO VDA. DELA CRUZ DIED at the age of 86 on Oct. 14. She is survived by children Beth, Baby, Malou, Val, Danny, Evelyn and Neneth. Her body lies at their residence on Jenny's Ave., Rosario, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2 p.m. at Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

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President Macapagal-Arroyo poses with TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service) awardees and officials in yesterday's ceremonies in Malacañang. They are (first row, from left) Dr. Ma. Corazon de Ungria (S&T), Ambassador Rosalinda Tirona, (2007 TOWNS search chair), Dr. Imelda Villar (TOWNS Foundation president), Dr. Glecy Cruz-Atienza (arts and culture), Dr. Catherine Vistro-Yu (education), Dr. Eva Marie Cutiongco-de la Paz (medicine), (second row from left) Metrobank Card Corp. president Tony Maughan, Alexandra Prieto-Romuladez (media, print journalism), Dr. Dijna Ocampo (education), Elizabeth Lee (business), Metrobank Foundation president Anecito Sobrepena, Maria Ressa (broadcast journalism), Dr. Hilly Ann Maria Roa Quiaoit (environmental conservation) and Dr. Alyssa Peleo-Alampay (S&T). EDWIN BACASMAS

# Comelec supervisor going to jail soon

By Beverly T. Natividad

FORMER MAGUINDANAO ELECTION supervisor Lintang Bedol is on the brink of incarceration.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is set to issue this week a commitment order and a warrant of arrest to put the poll supervisor, who had earned the ire of the Comelec for snubbing repeated summons, behind bars.

Acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Borra said in an interview that he has directed the Comelec law department to make the issuances so Bedol could be placed in jail soon following his conviction for indirect contempt.

"I am really following this up because I am now the acting chairman and I want things to be implemented," said Borra.

A commitment order, he explained, is the issuance of a warrant of arrest which is coordinated with the Philippine National Police and the prison officials.

In a 21-page decision last Aug. 7, the Comelec had unanimously sentenced Bedol to six months and a P1,000 fine for indirect contempt following his failure to appear before the poll body despite repeated summons to answer questions on alleged cheating activities in Maguindanao.

Other grounds were his act of openly challenging the Comelec to file charges against him and his loss of important election documents for Maguindanao.

Last month, the Comelec has junked the appeal of Bedol for a six-month imprisonment for indirect contempt.

While the Maguindanao election supervisor has appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court, Borra said the Comelec can now implement the penalty against Bedol since the high court has already denied a temporary restraining order sought by Bedol for his conviction.

# Bicol priest excommunicated for breaking confession seal

By Beverly T. Natividad

A CATHOLIC PRIEST FROM SORSOGON was formally excommunicated by the Church for breaking the "seal of confession."

In a decree dated Sept. 21, 2007, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sorsogon declared the penalty of "*latae sententiae excommunication*" against Fr. Alejandre V. Galias.

Excommunication means the exclusion of a Catholic from the community of the Church for misconduct.

Galias is now prohibited from celebrating and attending Masses, and is barred from receiving any of the sacraments.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes was quoted in the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website as saying that Galias had violated the Church rule that binds a priest to keep under absolute secrecy the sins confessed by penitents.

Bastes said that he acted on a formal complaint and that an investigation had found that Galias had violated the seal of confession.

"This is a very serious breach of confidence. [Priests] know this as a serious law of the Church. The law must be followed. I am the authority, being his bishop, to implement the law," Bastes told a Radio Veritas interview.

Bastes said that different dioceses in the country have been informed of Galias' excommunication.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, an expert on canon law, explained that for a Catholic excommunication means that one is separated from the life of the Church.

An excommunicated person is not included anymore in the prayers of the entire Catholic community during Masses and in the liturgy.

But the punishment does not mean that people should ostracize the excommunicated, said Cruz. It just means that the excommunicated is just "thrown out of the benefits of the Church's prayer" which happen to include all the Christian faithful throughout the world.

Excommunication is either "*ferendae sententiae*" (imposed as the sentence of an ecclesiastical court) or "*latae sententiae*" (incurred at the moment the offensive act takes place).

The most common grounds for excommunication are abortion and being a direct or indirect agent for its commission, breaking the seal of confession, and physically striking the Pope.

Excommunication is the most serious ecclesiastical penalty levied against ministers of the Church.

But the excommunication of a priest, as in Galias' case, though quite rare, is not a first for the Church, said Cruz.


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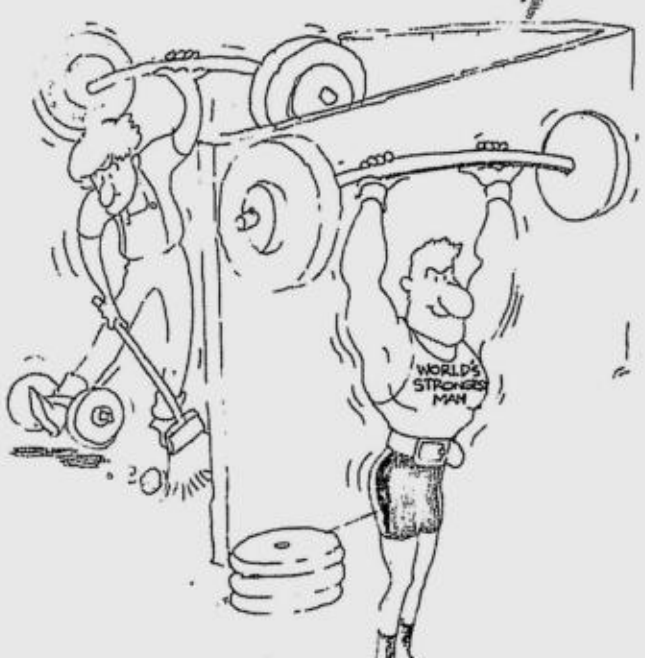


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For additional information, please see or call our mill site Purchasing Officer, Mr. Edwin O. Sarmiento, at telephone no. (034) 460-2852 or (034) 460-2853.

(PDI–Oct. 19, 2007)



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**ADDENDUM NO. 01-07**

This Addendum is hereby issued to modify or amend the schedule for the distribution of bid documents from the inclusive period October 19 to 28, 2007 to the inclusive period October 19 to 30, 2007. Further, the receipt and opening of bids, instead of October 29, 2007, 1:00 p.m., is also moved to October 31, 2007, 1:00 P.M.

This shall form an integral part of the Bid Documents for:

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**(Sgd.) CEZARITO N.J. CHIONG**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 19, 2007)

# Subic alcohol, cigarette importers told to pay taxes

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED Subic-based importers of alcohol and cigarette products seeking to be exempted from coverage of the Sin Tax Law to pay taxes to the government.

The high court nullified an order by an Olongapo City court granting the petition of 14 Subic Special Economic Freeport Zone (SBF) enterprises to prevent the implementation of the Sin Tax Law, or RA 9334, in their case.

The lower court gave credence to the SBF enterprises' argument that RA 7227, or the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992, granted them exemption from paying taxes on alcohol and tobacco importations.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales, the high tribunal said that RA 9334 had repealed RA 7227, under which the Subic Special Economic Zone provided incentives such as tax- and duty-free importations of raw materials, capital and equipment.

"The power to tax emanates from necessity; without taxes, government cannot fulfill its mandate of promoting the general welfare and well-being of the people," the high court said.

"Taxes being the lifeblood of the government that should be collected without unnecessary hindrance, every precaution must be taken not to unduly suppress it," it said.

The high court also noted that public welfare and necessity underlie the enactment of RA 9334 which, it said, was passed "to curb the practice of some unscrupulous business enterprises inside the SBF from using their tax exemption privileges for smuggling purposes."

The high court decision ruling was in response to a petition from the government seeking the annulment of the ruling issued by Ologapo Judge Ramon Caguioa in favor of the SBF enterprises.

Following Congress' enactment of RA 9334, the SBMA in 2005 sought to collect duties and taxes on the SBF enterprises' importations of cigarettes and alcohol.

This prompted the 14 SBF enterprises to file a civil suit before the Olongapo court to have the implementation of the new law declared unconstitutional. Caguioa ruled that they were still entitled to enjoy the benefits of tax incentives under RA 7227.

The customs and internal revenue bureaus and the Department of Finance went to the Supreme Court questioning the Caguioa decision.

The high court deemed the government petition "partly meritorious."

While it nullified Caguioa's ruling and ordered the SBF enterprises to pay the taxes, the high court denied the petition to prohibit Caguioa from further hearing the civil case, saying that halting the proceedings at this point may be premature. *Margaux C. Ortiz*


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The campaign period for the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections begins today. You can take part in policing the campaign behavior of candidates. Stand guard against violation of the following campaign rules and regulations:

- Candidates are only allowed to spend Three Pesos (P3.00) for every registered voter in the Barangay for their election campaign.
- Only campaign materials with handwritten or printed letters not exceeding 8 ½ inches in width and 14 inches in length and posters of a size not exceeding 2 feet by 3 feet will be allowed.
- Campaign materials may only be posted or displayed in designated Common Poster Areas in the Barangay.
- Giving or accepting, free of charge, whether directly or indirectly, transportation, food or drinks or things of value during the five (5) hours before and after a Barangay Assembly or other authorized public forum. This is likewise prohibited on the day preceeding the election and on election day.
- Holding of dances, lotteries, cockfights, bingo, beauty contests, entertainments or other performances for the purpose of raising funds for an election campaign is prohibited. It is also illegal for candidates, relatives or his representative to make any contributions or donations in cash or in kind.
- It is illegal to buy or sell votes.

Violation of the above mentioned rules shall constitute an election offense, punishable with one (1) to six (6) years imprisonment and disqualification to hold public office.

The campaign period for the October 29, 2007 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections will run from October 19, 2007 up to October 27, 2007.

Be vigilant in the coming polls. Report violations of campaign rules and regulations to your election officer.

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# Cop chiefs told to keep barangay polls peaceful

By Alcuin Papa

INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Secretary Ronaldo Puno yesterday ordered all police regional commanders and regional officers of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to ensure peaceful barangay elections on Oct. 29.

In a statement, Puno directed the DILG's regional chiefs to seek guidance from the agency's Legal Service to determine what they can and cannot do as DILG officials during the election period for the barangay and youth polls.

Puno also reminded DILG regional directors that the Oct. 29 election is a "nonpartisan activity" and that no political party, political coalition or similar organizations should intervene, participate or represent any candidate in the elections.

On Oct. 29, each of the more than 41,000 barangays around the country will elect one barangay chairman, seven councilors, one Sangguniang Barangay (SK) chairman, and seven SK councilors.

The filing of candidacies will cover the period from Sept. 29 to Oct. 18 this year, while the campaign period will commence on Oct. 19 and end on Oct. 27.

"I want the barangay elections to be peaceful and you, as regional directors, can play a key role in helping attain this objective, in tandem with the Comelec and our law enforcers," Puno told the DILG regional directors in a media conference.

Based on data from the DILG's National Barangay Operations Office, over 670,000 posts in 41,994 barangays nationwide are up for grabs among candidates.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Friday, October 19, 2007**
**28th Week in Ordinary Time**
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**1st Reading:** Rom 4:1-8
**Gospel:** Luke 12:1-7

Such a numerous crowd had gathered that they crushed one another. Then Jesus spoke to his disciples in this way,

"Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered that will not be uncovered, or hidden that will not be made known. Whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in daylight, and what you have whispered in hidden places, will be proclaimed from the housetops.

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who put to death the body and after that can do no more. But I will tell you whom to fear: Fear the One who after killing you is able to throw you into hell. This one you must fear. Don't you get five sparrows for two pennies? Yet not one of them has been forgotten by God. Even the hairs of your head have been numbered. So do not fear: are you not worth more than a flock of sparrows?"

**Commentary**

*Abraham was a believer and this was credited to him as justice. He knew that it was God who called him, sustained him and gifted him with all that he had, including his sons—and that is justice—recognizing rightly who is God. David knows this too—human beings are forgiven and our God does not let us incur guilt for our deeds. This is our God!*

*Jesus is trying to warn his disciples (and us) about anyone who acts like some of the Pharisees—hypocrites. What is shown in their lives belies what is in their hearts. But one day all will be revealed and be seen for what it is. We are to be careful that in protecting our lives, we do not lose our integrity and our souls. We are to be wary of those who could destroy our souls, even more than those who could kill us. God keeps each of us, everyone of us, close and dear. This is why we are to fear nothing! Except perhaps we should fear forgetting or betraying God just because we want to live easily or have longer lives.*

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**October 19 - November 1, 2007**

Davao Pomelo
Small
₱ 85 per kg.

Durian
₱ 85 per kg.

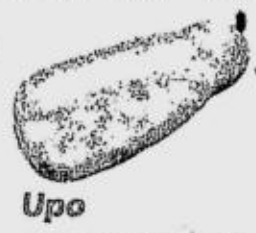
Supersavers
Beef Panlaga
₱195 per kg.

Supersavers
Liempo (SOBI)
₱142 per kg.

Fuji Apple
#113
₱ 12 per pc.

Green Papaya
₱ 29 per kg.

Banana Heart
₱ 40 per kg.

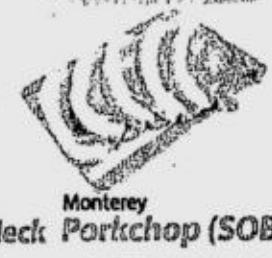


Upo
₱ 35 per kg.

Bangus
Unseasoned (Approx 200g)
₱ 20 per pc.

Magnolia
Chicken Wings
₱125 per kg.

Magnolia
Chicken Spicy Neck
₱ 82 per kg.



Monterey
Porkchop (SOBI)
₱145 per kg.

Xsakto
Spicy Pizza (30g)
₱ 4 per pc.

Kik's
Fish Cracker (200g)
₱42.25 per pc.

Tato Skins
Sour Cream & Onion (7oz)
₱125.50 per pc.

Mexicana
Snacks Crackers (100g)
₱ 23 per pc.

Xsakto
Sweet Corn (30g)
₱ 4 per pc.

Chabi
Lobster Cracker (100g)
₱17.25 per pc.

Lays
Potato Chips Sour Cream & Onion (6.5oz)
₱84.25 per pc.

Nova
Country Cheddar (78g)
₱ 19.25 per pc.

Oishi
Natural Plain Salted (65g)
₱ 19.55 per pc.

E-aji
Nacho with Cheezy Garlic Dip (80g)
₱16.35 per pc.

Cheese Rings
(60g)
₱ 8.40 per pc.

Tomi
Sweet Corn (30g)
₱ 3.90 per pc.

Granny Goose
Tortillos BBQ (100g)
₱16.75 per pc.

Pringles
Original (170g)
₱68.75 per pc.

Clover Chips
Cheese (155g)
₱29.95 per pc.

Tempura
Shrimp (100g)
₱12.90 per pc.

Chippy
BBQ (115g)
₱15.50 per pc.

Eaji
Fries with Cheesy Garlic Dip (65g)
₱16.35 per pc.

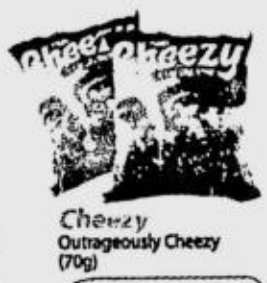
Granny Goose
Kornets Natural (100g)
₱18.30 per pc.

Pringles
Creamy Cheese (170g)
₱68.75 per pc.

Lala
Fish Cracker (100g)
₱14.40 per pc.

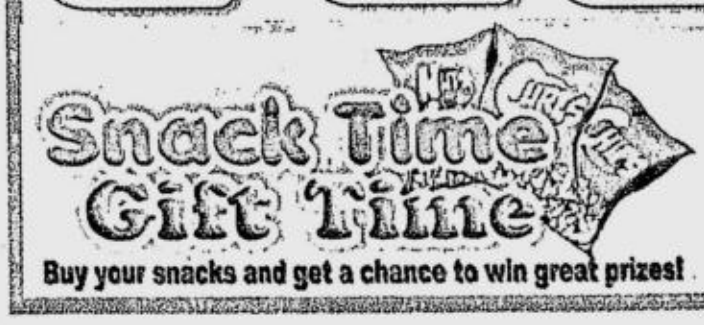
Loaded
Choco Filled (40g)
₱ 4.25 per pc.

Oishi
Bread Pan Cheese & Onion (45g)
₱ 5.10 per pc.



Cheezy
Outrageously Cheezy (70g)
₱13.50 per pc.

Doritos
Nacho Cheesier (198.4g)
₱81.50 per pc.

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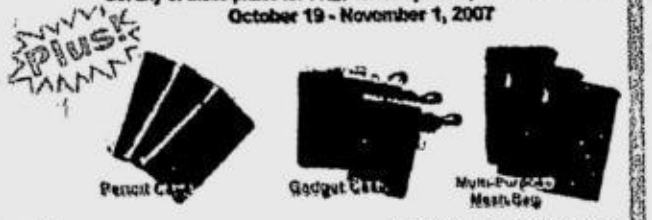


Per DTI-NCR Permit #5106 Series of 2007.

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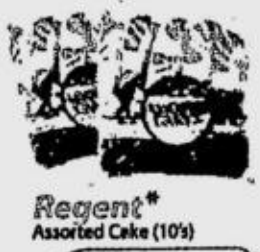
Dari Creme*
Lite (250g)
₱40.95 per pc.

Nestle*
Yogurt Buco Nata Delight (125g)
₱30.50 per pc.



Regent*
Assorted Cake (10's)
₱44.50 per pack

Supersavers*
Toasted Bread (50g x 120)
₱10.50 per pack

CDO*
Holiday Footlong (1kg.)
₱113 per pack

Mekeni*
Pork Tocino (500g)
(Not Available in Naga)
₱68 per pack

*Available in selected stores only.

Jolly
Tropical Fruit Cocktail (850g)
₱43

Dutchmill
Orange (180g)
₱13.85

Jolly
Corn Oil (2 Liters)
₱188.40

Tang
Orange (500g)
₱38

Belvita
Choco Creme Slug (57g)
₱7.40

Anlene
Gold Plain (180g)
₱97.25

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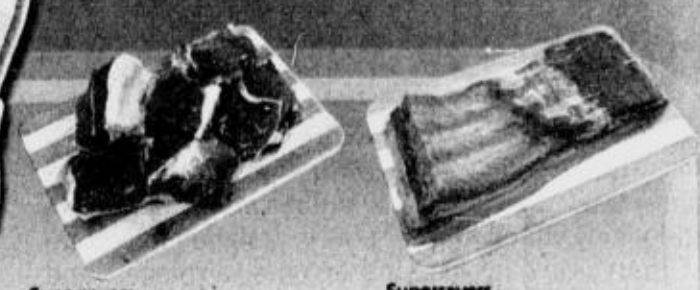

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**Xsakto** Spicy Pizza (30g) — ₱ 4 per pc.

**Kik's** Fish Cracker (200g) — ₱42.25 per pc.

HOT BUY

**Tato Skins** Sour Cream & Onion (7oz) — ₱125.50 per pc.

**Mexicana** Snacks Crackers (100g) — ₱ 23 per pc.

**Xsakto** Sweet Corn (30g) — ₱ 4 per pc.

**Chabi** Lobster Cracker (100g) — ₱17.25 per pc.

**Lays** Potato Chips Sour Cream & Onion (6.5oz) — ₱84.25 per pc.

**Nova** Country Cheddar (78g) — ₱ 19.25 per pc.

**Oishi** Natural Plain Salted (65g) — ₱ 19.55 per pc.

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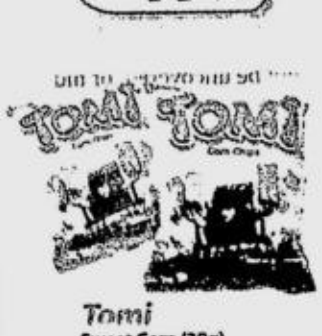
**Cheese Rings** (60g) — ₱ 8.40 per pc.



**Tomi** Sweet Corn (30g) — ₱ 3.90 per pc.

**Granny Goose** Tortillos BBQ (100g) — ₱16.75 per pc.

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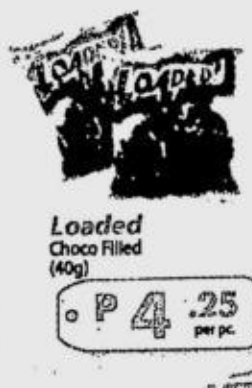

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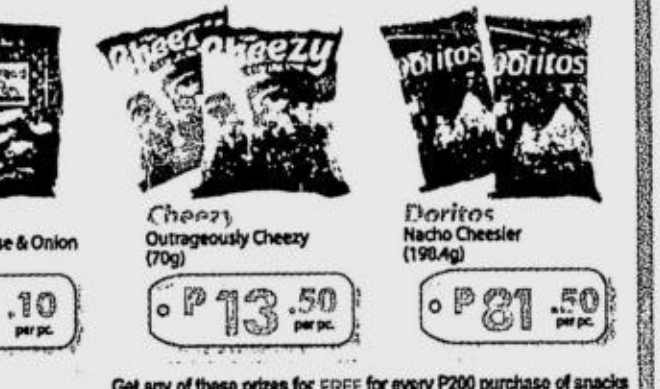

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APPLE TAG SPECIALS

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**Anlene** Gold Plain (180g) — ₱97.25

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# OPINION

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## Elephants at war

**EDITORIAL**

THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN GENERAL SANtos City, completed in 1998, was built with US aid—altogether, about $50 million worth of official, forward-looking charity. The airport is designed to accommodate the world's biggest and heaviest airplanes, and much more traffic than it actually bears. In the decade since it opened for business, the massive but underused facility has prompted many to ask: Is the airport, in fact, a white elephant?

Wrong image. As a recent report by Focus on the Global South serialized in the INQUIRER reminds us, the question all this time should have been: Is the airport a sign that the elephant is back in the room?

Often, the uses and advantages of the General Santos airport are discussed through the prism of business, such as the prospects of tourism or the requirements of domestic travel. The report, however, details the new US policy on maintaining a global military presence—thus restoring the proper context for discussing the airport's true uses and advantages: American military presence in the Philippines.

The facility has the look and heft of a military base because, in a crisis, the US military can turn it into one. (The airport is connected to a deep-water port by a robust road system, both built, like the airport itself, through official development assistance.)

By redefining the meaning of a military base, and by rethinking its requirements for maintaining a global military posture, the United States has employed a new strategy that is not only cost-effective but also host-friendly. In countries like the Philippines, where resistance to foreign military presence or new military bases begins with provisions in the fundamental law, the new US strategy allows the Pentagon, in cooperation with a willing host government, to avoid constitutional stumbling blocks.

The report quotes a US Navy admiral as saying: "We don't want to be stepping all over our host nations. We want to exist in a very non-intrusive way."

The report details how the US military inserts itself into a host nation in a very non-intrusive way. "First, the United States has stepped up deploying troops, ships, and equipment to the country ostensibly for training exercises, humanitarian and engineering projects, and other missions."

In 2006, under the aegis of the Visiting Forces Agreement, some 37 exercises were scheduled. This is up at least threefold from the average of 10 to 12 that the Department of Foreign Affairs reported on its website.

The "repeated and regular" schedule of exercises allows the United States to gain what the chief of the US Pacific Command described as the prize as far back as 2003: "Access over time can develop into habitual use of certain facilities by deployed US forces with the eventual goal of being guaranteed use in a crisis, or permission to pre-position logistics stocks and other critical material in strategic forward locations."

To be sure, no one in the US military would identify the Philippines as a strategic forward location, at least not officially and not to Philippine media. But as another report by Focus on the Global South reveals, internal documents or studies and journals circulated within the US military candidly and explicitly characterize the mission of US forces visiting the Philippines as "conducting unconventional warfare."

The second mode of non-intrusive insertion is obliging the host nation "to provide it with a broad range of services that would enable it to launch and sustain operations from the Philippines when necessary."

The third way is establishing a new kind of facility called Cooperative Security Locations. "In August 2005 the official commission tasked with reviewing US basing, categorically identified the Philippines as one of the countries where CSLs were being developed by the United States in the region," the report said.

Lastly: stationing a US military unit in the country indefinitely—exactly like the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, based these last six years in Zamboanga City.

These four modes may be non-intrusive, but together they undermine the Constitution itself. Constitutional resistance to foreign military presence, however, is not an outright ban; allowing foreign troops into the country is politically difficult, but not impossible. If the Arroyo administration believes a semi-permanent presence of US forces is in the nation's best interests, why not bring everything out into the open?

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## Only GMA has power to order Palace payoff

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ORdered an investigation of the cash distribution to lawmakers and local government officials in Malacañang last week. It's as if she didn't know anything about it. She deserves an acting award for this one, pretending innocence about something she probably ordered.

The cash given to eager congressmen amounted to many millions of pesos. Where did all that money come from? Nobody is talking. Did some very rich eccentric celebrate early Christmas? Did some lucky stiff win in the lotto and decide to share his winnings with congressmen like contractors do? Did somebody's rich uncle pass away, leaving his wealth to our already rich congressmen? No, that much money could have come only from the government.

But who could have ordered the disbursement of so much money in a single day? The budget secretary? The finance secretary? Any other Cabinet member? No, none of them could have ordered such a massive payoff without a paper trail. But there is no paper trail. Nobody seems to know where the money came from and who ordered its distribution.

Only one person has the power and authority to release so much cash without a paper trail, and that is President Arroyo. She has her almost unlimited discretionary and intelligence funds to draw from.

So that investigation she ordered to be conducted by an agency under her office is nothing but a *moro-moro*.

But let us assume—though it is extremely difficult to believe—that she really did not know about the payoffs. That is worse. The President doesn't know what is going on around her?

The distribution was done in broad daylight in Malacañang, the official residence of the President. The bundles of cash were in bags given to the officials openly, not secretly. It must have taken many people many hours to count so much money and put them in the bags. There must have been quite a to-do in the Palace while this was being done. And the President didn't notice anything during all that time?

If the President doesn't know what is happening in her own house, how can she know what is happening in the whole country? If she doesn't know what is happening under her very nose, how can she know what is happening in faraway Mindanao or Batanes?

No wonder bribery and corruption are growing by leaps and bounds. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was wrong again when she said that the Chinese invented corruption. The ancestors of the incumbent government officials must have invented it.

Enough of this *moro-moro* by an agency under the Office of the President. When GMA ordered a "quiet" investigation of the bribery in the broadband deal, the "investigators" gave it a clean bill of health, as ordered and as expected. Just a few days later, witnesses revealed to the Senate that they had been offered bribes to allow the ZTE deal to push through.

The expected result of the Malacañang-ordered investigation is to point accusing fingers at some scapegoats far from the Palace. Already, Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno is pointing to the House of Representatives, to the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia, in particular, as the source of the money. Don't look at us, Puno said, those bags of money were the usual "*pabaon*" to the congressmen from the Speaker during the recess. The bribegiver is not GMA but JDV.

But if those were the Speaker's "*pabaon*" to the congressmen, why were the governors and mayors also given bags of money? Tell us another story, Secretary Puno.

* * *

**If GMA is clueless about what is going on in her own house, she is even more clueless about what is happening in isolated grids in our islands. These are the islands that are not connected to the national grid like Palawan, Mindoro, Marinduque, Masbate, Bantayan, Catanduanes, Siquijor, Basilan, Romblon, Tablas, Sulu, etc. These areas are served by a special unit of the National Power Corp. called Special Power Utilities Group (SPUG) which oversees losses of P4 billion to P6 billion a year in these islands, mostly in using expensive diesel. The losses are paid for by "missionary subsidies" and internal funds of Napocor.**

**While the Department of Energy is supposed to have launched since 2004 a program to privatize the 14 largest islands, a Mafia in Napocor has stymied the privatization efforts and private sector projects in these islands. As a consequence, SPUG has been spending a big chunk of the P4 billion annual subsidies on rented generators, many of them on their fifth year of renewal, and expensive diesel fuel which is prone to pilferage because it is stored in drums and can easily be sold in the local markets.**

**To pay for its profligacy, SPUG has applied with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for a series of rate increases in transmission charges and true cost of generation. It costs SPUG an average P12 to P15 per kWh to generate power when the private sector can bring this down to P6 to P8 per kWh.**

**If SPUG's applications are approved (and there are reports that the ERC is inclined to approve them), the people in those islands will have to pay Napocor P9 per kWh and total electricity rates will soar to P12 per kWh.**

**Why is GMA allowing SPUG to apply for such astronomical rate increases? The ERC is supposed to have established a Socially Acceptable Generation Rate (SAGR) at P4.80 to P5.71 per kWh, which in theory is what these isolated economies can afford. So why is the government now trying to raise the generation charge to P9 per kWh? Curiously, the congressmen of these islands have not raised a howl. Is it because some of them get a piece of the action?**

## Endless orgy among thieves

**PASSION FOR REASON**

*Raul C. Pangalangan*

TO QUIET DOWN A BRIBERY SCANDAL, THE solution is to bribe even more.

Joey de Venecia said the First Gentleman told him, "Back off!" Former Neda chief Romulo Neri testified that Comelec head Benjamin Abalos told him, "*Sec, may 200 ka dito.*" He reports this to the President. She tells him not to accept it, but neither does she honor her constitutional oath to "execute [our] laws" and prosecute the bribe-givers and their Backers. An impeachment case is then filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo before Congress.

And then on Tuesday last week, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said a Kampi official offered him P2 million to sign what was perceived to be a weak impeachment complaint that would immunize Ms Arroyo from impeachment for another year. On Thursday last week, the President summoned 190 of her congressional allies and gave each of them sums ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

Scarcely three days later, Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio reveals that he received half-a-million pesos at a Malacañang breakfast meeting of local officials with the President. Two other governors and several congressmen have now confirmed receiving similar amounts.

Each time I hear of another graft scandal in the Arroyo administration, I am aghast at the astronomical sums, and I ask myself: How will she get away with it this time? Let me venture some possibilities.

One, test the limits of "plausible deniability." Remember the Jose Pidal bank account? Well, we discovered that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has a younger brother named Iggy, who volunteered that he was in fact Jose Pidal. How convenient! Passable, if you want to believe and just let it go without feeling you've been had.

Thus far, however, the explanations have been ludicrous, testing instead the limits of our credulity. They must think we are dimwits all. At first, the Palace spin-doctors said it was to help in the coming barangay elections. Now the Comelec says that the Election Code bans politicians from intervening in the non-partisan barangay elections.

Both Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita then say that local officials customarily request funds from the President for local projects. But Andaya himself says the money couldn't have come from the government. He doesn't have the budget, he can't release them directly to mayors and governors, and the only way is through a specific document, the Special Allotment Release Order (Saro), that earmarks funds for specific projects. And now the Comelec says public works projects are banned right before the barangay elections.

Environment Secretary and former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza confirms that indeed mayors receive such largesse, often from the government-sanctioned lotteries: the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. The other day, both the PCSO and the Pagcor denied that they were the clandestine donors at the Malacañang bacchanalia.

Then they said it was a gift, but from whom? A mystery donor—and yes, a cool half million handed in a paper bag, without any receipt or Saro. Indeed in the beginning, someone even said it was a "Christmas gift," but the explanation didn't fly and hasn't been repeated.

Second, hide the witnesses. Remember Udong Mahusay, the star witness presented by Sen. Ping Lacson with supposedly damning evidence on the President's *jueteng* links? Lacson said Mahusay was "abducted," but the Palace says he was merely "reunited" with his family, brought to Manila all the way from Bicol.

Third, demonize the whistleblowers. De Venecia had a drug habit. Father Panlilio was compromised when he took the paper bag. And will Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza take a lie detector test? Why, are they the accused in this case? The last time there was a payola scandal, the Palace asked: So where are the bribe-takers? And they even had the gall to say that the good guys should have taken the bribe as proof! Now that someone followed their advice, Palace's minions are singing a different tune.

Fourth, the presidential "*dead-ma*," the new Filipino equivalent of "Talk to the hand!" Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye already tried it about 10 days ago by saying, "This is absolutely a non-issue." Didn't work. So now to Plan B: Deny, Deny, Deny. Francis Ver offered money to Ka Crispin, a Left-wing venerable? Absurd. Tonypet Albano gave the payola? But he was abroad. Yet if the details are askew, how about the fundamental, undeniable fact that bundles of cash unexplainably changed hands at presidential meetings in Malacañang? The spinmeisters now use their own blundering to prove the President innocent: She had nothing to do with it—and she's fuming mad at our cockamamie yarns!

The *dead-ma* is part of political guerrilla warfare. The goal is to wear us down. No need to deny, but no need to tell the truth either. Just wait until the public gets tired and move on to the next *telenovela*.

I know, I know. We swear by the rule of law and everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty. But that assumes that the law will take its course and ferret out the truth. Yet GMA has shown herself so adept at short-circuiting legal processes, and using the law—executive privilege as well as the one-year bar on a second impeachment—to frustrate truth-seeking.

Beyond that, politically, how long can we maintain the legal presumption of innocence? By pushing legal fictions to their outer limit, do we not strain our own faith in the rule of law, and tempt those who would seek change outside a Constitution that has ceased to serve its purpose? Chairman Mao said: We have bartered our souls for a mess of pottage.

* * *

*Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com*

# Inconvenient questions

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

THE NOOSE IS TIGHTENING AROUND THE neck of Malacañang Palace as evidence mounts to fill the gaps on what happened at the breakfast meetings inside the Palace on Thursday last week when cash, ranging from P200,000 and P500,000, was distributed to 190 congressmen and several provincial governors.

The chorus of accounts from a number of ungrateful breakfast guests, who have bitten the hands that fed them, reinforced reports that Malacañang distributed the cash gifts. None of the accounts indicated that President Macapagal-Arroyo was perturbed by the proceedings.

The most damning account comes from Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante who admitted receiving five bundles of P100,000 each from someone in barong Tagalog. Without hiding behind the cloak of anonymity, as most of the beneficiaries did, Abante said: "The men in barong came out and began handing out paper bags, the floral type, glossy." He said the bundles of cash were inside the paper bag.

He had arrived at the Palace around 8 a.m., he said. Ten minutes later, the President arrived with Joaquin Lagunera, acting head of the Legislative Liaison Office. "After we shook hands with the President I already wanted to leave... I had a flight to Davao... I called up somebody. I was told to stay." He said he thought congressmen would be given their allotment release orders for projects in their districts. "We were given the paper bags," he said.

Abante did not reveal the names of the other congressmen who attended the breakfast meeting but said Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, who admitted earlier that he had received P200,000, "was at my table."

Malacañang summoned the congressmen to an unscheduled breakfast meeting for an unstated purpose. Some congressmen said the President was not around during the distribution. Some said the envelopes were distributed at the end of the breakfast meeting, or that "they were distributed by the door as the congressmen were leaving." Another source said the President was around for 30 minutes, but she didn't deliver any speech.

The meeting was variously described as a "social gathering," and the handouts as a "send-off gift" or an early "Christmas gift." The more suspicious called them a "bribe." The dole was so deviously disguised that it was left to the beholder to figure out whether the cash was intended to influence congressmen to kill the new impeachment complaint against the President or to help them strengthen their bailiwicks in the Oct. 29 barangay elections, or in the case of the governors to help finance their community projects.

Nonetheless, the smoking gun exists: the presence of the President at the meeting. That should be enough to start an investigation of her complicity in what looks like a division of the loot, done inside Palace premises.

Inconvenient questions have arisen from the Palace breakfast meetings. Two issues have crystallized: first, the source of the money—whether it was taken from public funds or private wealth; second, the purpose of the gifts. These questions have caught fire, and can easily ignite a political crisis worse than that created by the revelation of the Garcillano tapes involving alleged tampering with the 2004 presidential election results. This is without doubt the most serious corruption case ever confronted by the Arroyo presidency involving handling of huge sums of money.

The Palace knows it is sitting on a ticking time bomb. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has defined the scope of a Palace-initiated "internal" investigation "to determine who was responsible for this alleged incident and to determine the source." This lays the foundation for a farce of an investigation.

The key question is whether the money distributed came from public funds. Those with expertise on sourcing money generously disbursed by Malacañang either as pork barrel allocations or for electioneering point to the President's contingent fund and intelligence fund, which must be used for confidential projects involving the security of the state.

Institutional procedures are in place governing pork barrel releases. They require the issuance of receipts and the signing of vouchers by recipients, for strict accountability. According to witnesses, no such documents were signed last week. Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said there were no official fund releases on that day.

On the issue of whether public or private funds were distributed, the law is explicit. A Commission of Audit official says, "If a public official receives money in his capacity as a public official, the money becomes part of public funds." The Administrative Code of 1987 states that "all money and property officially received by an official in any capacity or upon any occasion must be accounted for as government funds and government property." The contingent fund, administered by the Office of the President, is subject to audit.

The administration cannot duck responsibility for the cash distribution last week with glib answers. These issues generate inconvenient questions that refuse to go away. The cash distribution cannot be wished away with another "lapse of judgment" public confession. Already some senators are talking of resignation and civil war, and the military is rife with talk of mutiny.

# Make or break

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE ABOUT WHERE WE should invest public money for education and often the choice that's presented is between primary and tertiary levels, with the secondary or high school level disappearing from the discussions.

There have been some good government initiatives launched for high schools, foremost of which is making high schools tuition-free. We also have special schools such as the tech-vocs (technical-vocational) and the science high schools, the latter taking off from the Philippine Science High School prototype. Together with national high schools, whose budgets come entirely from the national government, the tech-vocs and science high schools are making a difference. In UP, I've been getting students from these schools and they often do very well.

But even these initiatives still fall short when it comes to addressing issues of equity. The idea of quality public high schools is to give the children from middle- and low-income households a fighting chance for college and careers afterwards, but it doesn't always work out that way. Many science high schools, for example, end up catering to students from upper-class backgrounds, who have an edge over poorer children because of years of extra preparation, from preschool onwards.

### Cost-benefit

Only 65 percent of those who started 1st grade six years ago will make it into high school, and most of the dropouts will be from poor families. Many will drop out as early as Grade 2 or 3, and will never go back to school, disadvantaged for life.

If you ask the young dropouts why they had to leave school, they will cite different reasons but often, it is the parents themselves who pulled out the child from school. I'm seeing this even in urban poor communities, where some parents seem to find every reason to stop a child's schooling: a prolonged illness, for example, will be used as an excuse to just keep the child at home supposedly because he'd have difficulty catching up. The following year, they'll argue that he's too old to go back to the previous grade, or is still too sickly.

While tuition is free in elementary and high school, there are far too many other expenses that add up and strain the family budget: books, school supplies, food, transportation. Many low-income parents will therefore be doing a cost-benefit analysis with education, especially for high school. A child perceived to be bright may be kept in school, even prodded to excel, while someone less diligent will be taken out.

In many countries, parents discriminate against their daughters, depriving them of an education. In the Philippines, I see the reverse. Especially with farming and fishing communities, parents will stop a son's schooling, explaining he's more useful if put to work. In cities, parents will claim, too, that the sons are lazy, or have fallen into bad company, or, quite simply, have gotten some kind of job, no matter how low paying.

Daughters are seen as better investments, supposedly because girls work harder and are more persevering. Many parents also have their eyes on overseas work, and are aware that many of the occupations prefer females: caregivers, domestic helpers. . .or entertainers.

### Ecotones

We see economics determining, directly or indirectly whether a student stays in school or not, but the problems are aggravated, too, by a lack of social models of success. For the rural poor, "success" is, quite simply, being able to farm or fish. For urbanites, the standards of success are careers in entertainment, often with celebrities boasting they never finished high school, or overseas deployment.

I think of high schools as ecotones, which biologists define as an area of overlapping ecosystems. The overlap of systems (for example, a forest and a savannah or grassland) will mean more environmental challenges, and opportunities. The result, sometimes called the "edge effect," is greater diversity in flora and fauna, with different forms of life competing and cooperating.

High schools are ecotones in the sense that they are often new environments for students. Often, the high schools are found in town centers (the *poblacion*) or in cities, so for many rural children, school opens up a whole new world. In other areas, high schools are a place for a greater mix of ethnicities, including students from indigenous communities.

There are risks involved: of more affluent kids creating new consumer demands among the poorer ones, of streetwise urban kids dominating over the rural ones, of children from indigenous communities giving up their culture for that of the Tagalog or "Bisaya." This is where school administrators and faculty need to find ways to ensure that the diversity adds to, rather than detracts from, the educational experience.

### Life skills

Perhaps the most important "ecotone" aspect of high school is that for all the students, regardless of class or ethnicity or religion, high school comes at a time when the students are going through a crucial transition in environments: from childhood to adulthood. For the youth who do make it to high school, this could be a last chance to equip them with important life skills.

Last year when Tesda came up with its "supermaid" curriculum, I wrote a column asking why we had to formulate such courses with only human exports in mind. Learning to cook, to clean house, to wash and iron, to budget, to manage a household, to keep healthy and treat common illnesses—these are skills that should be taught in high schools, to both boys and girls, together with some education on consumerism, learning to read through the advertising hype, whether for cell phones, skin whiteners or infant formulas.

The tech-voc schools offer even more practical skills around technical vocations and agriculture, in an attempt to get parents to see some value in keeping their children in high school. We could go a step further and make sure the skills can be applied right after graduation. In the Chinese system, for example, the six-year high school system produces bookkeepers and electricians. What college does is to provide the accountants and engineers.

High school is especially important for helping students to deal with their sexuality. The students are feeling the changes in their bodies and in their psyche, and if we don't help to provide them with answers to their many questions, they will pick up information (and misinformation) from dubious sources.

Only 20 percent of our youth will eventually finish high school, so every year they stay in school could make a difference. The statistics are clear in showing that once they drop out, their options narrow. Compared to those who at least finish high school or, better, get to college, high-school dropouts marry earlier, have more children and are more likely to end up joining the ranks of the unemployed and under-employed. High school is, put simply, a make-or-break time for our young.

# Why Che Guevara's legacy endures

**COMMENTARY**

*Roland G. Simbulan*

THIS OCTOBER, MANY SOCIAL REFORMERS around the world and Latin American governments especially, commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of the Argentine revolutionary, Dr. Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Today, the presence of this bearded revolutionary heartthrob wearing a beret with a red star not only endures in the omnipresent T-shirts, tobacco brands, couture bags and other souvenir items that many Filipinos consciously, or unknowingly, wear or use. The name "Che" continues to be an inspiration to many Latin American governments and social movements all over the world which have emerged and continue to defy the forces that celebrated too soon his demise 40 years ago: US imperialism and its stooges.

Jean Paul Sartre did say that Che "was the most complete human being of our age." Today, Che's militant battle cry continues to inspire those who resist the forces of US-led globalization that dominate the world. He was the inspiration of our own murdered heroes, Bobby de la Paz and Juan Escandor, medical doctors who, like Che, joined and offered their lives in the struggle for fundamental social change. During the dark years of the Marcos dictatorship, both Filipino doctors opted to serve the rural poor.

Less known to many is the fact that Che introduced in Cuba the concept of "social medicine," where medicine becomes a collective responsibility. In 1965, Che outlined his idea: "The battle against disease should be based on a principle of creating a robust body—not creating a robust body through a doctor's artistic work on a weak organism, but creating a robust body through the work of the whole social collectivity. One day, medicine will have to become a science that serves the struggle against the fundamental causes of disease and poverty."

Oct. 8 is the official commemoration of the death of this revolutionary hero. But according to a recent biography of Che by Mexican journalist Paco Ignacio Taibo II, the date of his death was Oct. 9, because he was still alive when captured at Quebrada del Yuro on Oct. 8, 1967, by Bolivian Rangers and their US military advisers. He was executed on Oct. 9, according to the eyewitness account of a Bolivian teacher, at a rural schoolhouse at Vallegrande, where he had been brought the day before.

Who is this man whom Cuban President Fidel Castro admires so much that when once asked how he wanted Cuban children to be, he said, "We want them to be like Che"? Why does his memory and legacy endure today not only in Cuba where he helped win a revolution in 1959 with the highest rank of Commandante of the guerrilla army of Castro's July 26th Movement?

After the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, where he emerged as a brilliant theoretician of guerrilla warfare, Che was appointed by Castro to head key centers for restructuring the Cuban economy: the National Agrarian Reform Institute and the Industrialization Program which managed all the American companies in Cuba that were nationalized. He later headed the National Bank of Cuba, and subsequently served as industry minister. Even as an economic manager, Che led and showed by his example the "New Man" that he envisioned: working voluntarily for the "collective," doing manual labor and forging an inseparable bond between leaders and the masses.

After a few years, Che gave up the comforts that went with being a government bureaucrat and minister. Soon it was reported that he was leading a group of Cuban volunteers supporting guerrilla struggles in Africa.

Then, he decided to lead a guerrilla *foco* (armed contingent) in Bolivia, a country that straddles five countries around it, and spearheaded the continental revolution as an internationalist, to create, in his own words, "two, three, four more Vietnams against Yankee imperialism."

Today, 40 years after his murder, Che's spirit of struggle against injustice lives on. While experiencing devastating quagmires in far-flung military interventions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States is facing a "revolt" of sorts in Latin America with the emergence of democratically elected progressive governments in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua, among others. Their progressive national leaderships have joined hands to resist US corporate domination and US militarism right in the empire's back door—"Our America," as Che fondly called the entire Latin American continent. There, Che's spirit lives: "Many shall perish, victims of their errors ... but new fighters and new leaders shall appear in the warmth of the revolutionary struggle."

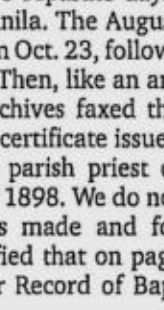
Che professed with the example of his life what he taught in his writings: that every revolutionary leader should lead his squad in battle. Che's spirit endures because he embodies the vigor, spirit and idealism which some of us have lost or seem to have forgotten with time.

Che's martyrdom at the hands of the Bolivian 2nd Ranger Battalion, which was, like the Armed Forces of the Philippines, trained, armed and advised by US Special Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, did not end the revolutionary and progressive struggles in Latin America. Che himself predicted this when he wrote, "Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may have reached some receptive ear and another hand may be extended to wield our weapons and other men be ready to intone the funeral dirge with the staccato singing of the machine guns and new battle cries of war and victory."

*Roland G. Simbulan is a professor in Development Studies and Public Management at the University of the Philippines and senior fellow of the Center for Peoples' Empowerment in Governance (CENPEG).*

# Questions about Juan Luna

**LOOKING BACK**



*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

NEXT WEEK, WE HOPE PEOPLE WILL JOIN THE National Historical Institute, the City of Manila and the Province of Ilocos Norte in celebrating or at least remembering the patriot and painter Juan Luna on his 150th birthday. I presume that everything will run smoothly, from the commemorative programs, to lectures, painting contests for children and an exhibit by members of the Art Association of the Philippines who will embark on a pilgrimage to Badoc, paint on the spot and exhibit their work in the reconstructed birthplace of Luna.

Badoc was recently in the news because of some cowboy movie-like shootout in that sleepy town inspired by local politics. There was one fatality, a bodyguard of the vice mayor, which was not good for local tourism, but then Ilocos Norte tourism officer Rene Guatlo commented dryly that guns and mayhem are nothing new in the history of Ilocos.

The recent shooting was quite appropriate because textbooks tend to forget that Luna shot and killed his wife Paz Pardo de Tavera, and his mother-in-law Juliana Gorricho in a jealous rage in Paris in 1892. Furthermore, because he survived becoming a Paris crime statistic in 1892, few people know that Felix Paz Pardo de Tavera was also shot by Luna during that bloody day when he tried to come to the aid of his mother and sister who had locked themselves in a bathroom and screamed for help from the third floor window.

When they returned home after years of living in Europe, Juan and his younger brother Antonio opened a *sala de armas* or fencing school in what was then Calle Alix, Sampaloc.

When all the festivities were being planned, I insisted on having two floral offerings in Manila, first at the foot of the statue of Juan Luna that stands on an island as you enter the Walled City today through Puerta Real (Royal Gate); and second, in the crypt of San Agustin where Luna's remains rest in niche No. 87. The tombstone was the source of much confusion because the text, as translated from the original Spanish, reads: "Juan Luna y Novicio. Painter. Patriot. Born in Badoc, Ilocos Norte 23 October 1857. Died in Victoria, Hongkong December 7, 1899."

The problem was that for over a decade the NHI had celebrated the anniversary of his birth on Oct. 24. A check with the pioneering and much cited biography of Luna by Carlos E. Da Silva revealed that when it was first published in mimeograph form in 1957, Luna's birthday was Oct. 23. However when the NHI decided to publish the biography by Da Silva, the birthday suddenly became Oct. 24. This posed a problem because a tombstone should normally be infallible.

To be sure that the Oct. 24 date followed by the NHI for over two decades was not a typographical error, verification was undertaken. Pending new research, the compromise was that there would be two commemorations on two separate days: Oct. 23 in Ilocos, Oct. 24 in Manila. The Augustinians of San Agustin insisted on Oct. 23, following the date on the tombstone. Then, like an answered prayer the National Archives faxed the NHI a copy of Luna's baptismal certificate issued by Fray Ricardo Alonso, OSA, parish priest of Badoc, Ilocos Norte, on Jan. 19, 1898. We do not know why this document was made and for whom, but the good friar certified that on page 215 of the 8th volume of their Record of Baptisms, the following text reads:

"On October 27, 1857 Fr. Sebastian Diez, parish priest of Sinait with the license from the parish priest of Badoc solemnly baptized Juan Luna de San Pedro, a three-day old boy, legitimate son of Don Joaquin Luna y San Pedro and Doña Laureana Novicio. The godfather was Juan de la Fuente a Spaniard who commanded the Spanish Infantry in both Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur."

Luna's *ninang* is not recorded. Why? We will never know. Therefore, if Luna was baptized on Oct. 27, and he was three days old at the time, then his birthday is Oct. 24 not Oct. 23. The source for the wrong date must have been Luna's daughter-in-law, Grace Luna, an American married to Luna's son Andres who grew up to become one of the pioneering Filipino architects. After a memorial service in Hong Kong, following his death of a heart attack on Dec. 7, 1899, Luna's body was cremated and Andres, according to the late Antonio Sindiong, kept the urn containing his father's ashes all his life. Sindiong said that Luna's remains were kept in a pail under the bed of Andres. It was only after Andres' death did Juan Luna's ashes find a final resting place in San Agustin.

This obscure and almost trivial bit of information only goes to show that there is much more to Juan Luna that remains to be researched and published so that we can come to terms with the artist of the violent and depressing "Spoliarium," both as a painter and, more importantly, as a Filipino patriot. Why is he great? Because of his art? Because of his friendship with Rizal? Perhaps it is connected to being General Luna's *kuya* or even his service as Philippine diplomatic representative of the Aguinaldo government in Europe?

There are many old questions about Luna that await new answers. Old questions that will generate new questions and push our knowledge further.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

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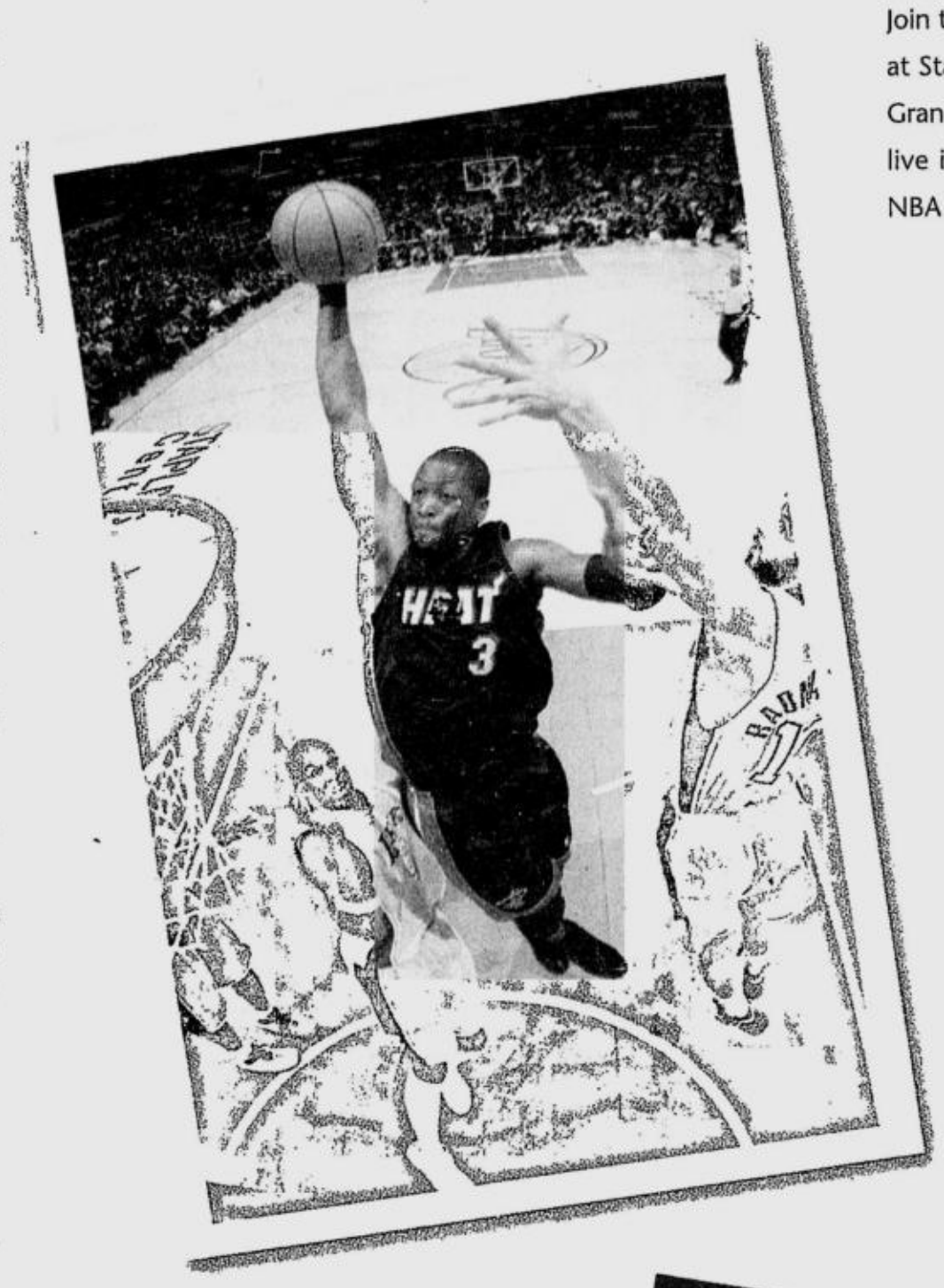

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# Rare breed of public servants

LETTERS

IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES that issue clearances, certificates, licenses and permits, it is common that we meet discourteous and incompetent public officials and employees.

But the Quezon City Satellite Office of the National Bureau of Investigation is an exception. From its chief, Raul Boncan Angeles down to the clerk, photographer, officer in charge of finger-printing, office assistant and to the security guard—everybody in that office—exhibited willingness, efficiency and courtesy in rendering service to the public.

I write this letter as my wife and I personally witnessed the fine attributes of Angeles and the employees under his charge.

It is encouraging to note that there are still people like them who represent a rare breed of public servants.

May their tribe increase. The sooner, the better.

**—EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO,**
**president, Metropolitan Organization of Values Educators (MOVE), 22 Antonia St., Centerville, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

## Valderama Elementary School not in Bukidnon

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWS ITEM titled "ARMM students score lowest in the national achievement test" by Jerry Esplanada. (INQUIRER, 9/17/07) The report mentioned Valderama Elementary School of Bukidnon as among the low performing schools in the country with a NAT average of 24 percent.

May we clarify that there is no Valderama Elementary School in the division of Bukidnon. Furthermore, the records of the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) show that there is only one examinee from Valderama Elementary School which is not in Bukidnon. We have no school with only one Grade 6 pupil enrolled.

**—FLORANTE M. CORPUZ,**
**assistant schools division superintendent, Division of Bukidnon, Malaybalay City, Department of Education, Region 10**

## Calling NTC's attention

THIS REFERS TO THE NEWS REPORT ON TV viewers exasperated by too many commercials shown in between rounds of the Pacquiao-Barrera boxing match. (INQUIRER, 10/8/07) Not only were there too many commercials; product names were displayed onscreen while the fight was being shown; worse, product names were flashed in the middle of the screen even as the fight went on, blocking our view of the fight.

The same goes with the TV coverage of basketball games, particularly the NCAA and UAAP games. Because of too many commercials in between time-outs, we miss a lot of live action. Besides, even as the game is on, the cameras are trained at movie personalities and politicians. If I want to see actors and politicians, I'd watch a movie or go to Congress (though I wouldn't waste my time for that). I watch the games to watch the games, period.

Calling the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission.

**—ROBERT A. HYNDMAN,**
**4 Cadena de Amor St., Tahanan Village, Parañaque City**

## Also a cause for shame

THIS REFERS TO DR. RICA CRUZ'S LETTER "An insult to Filipino docs." (INQUIRER, 10/8/07)

It's also a big shame on people who choose to practice their medical profession in the United States when thousands upon thousands of their poor *kababayans* need their medical expertise here in the Philippines.

Wow, 80 percent of Dr. Cruz's top-notch class is in the United States? Tsk, tsk, tsk... *mga taga-UP pa man din*.

**—VALLERIE ANN INNIS-SAMSON,**
**valleriean n@yahoo.com**

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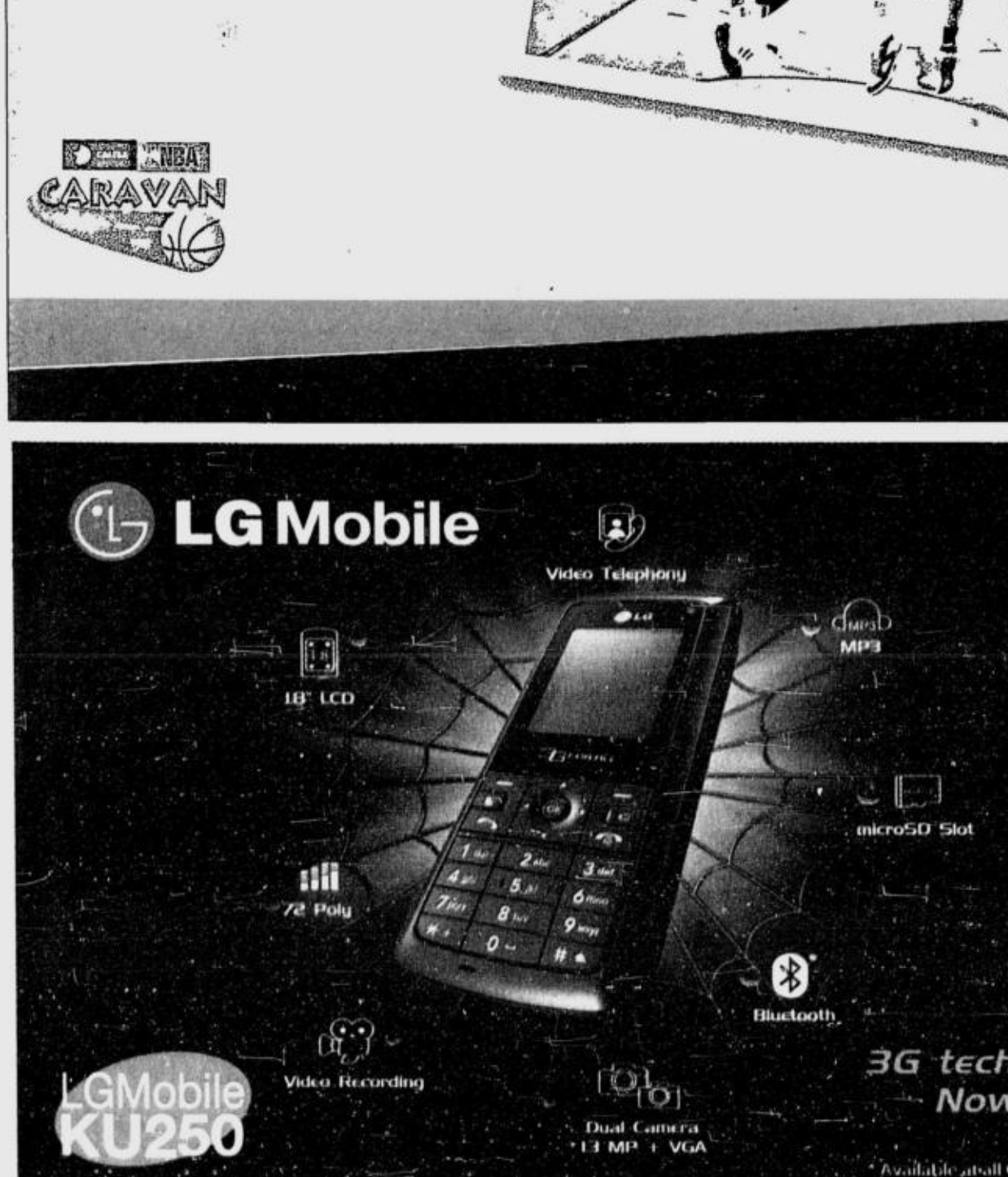


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Renee Lyn Santos

Suzy Lyn Bayona

On behalf of IIA, Inc. International's Board of Regents and Ms. Pat Brame (Director for the Certification Department of IIA, Inc. Int'l.), we present the results of the May 2007 Global Certification Examinations.

The IIA, Inc. Int'l. Board of Regents has conferred the prestigious Global Top 1 CIA award to a Filipino. **Elisheba Manzano**, a CPA from Punongbayan and Araullo has earned the **William S. Smith Gold Medal Award** for her outstanding performance in the May 2007 Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) examinations. This means that in addition to successfully completing the CIA exam in one sitting, Elisheba Etabag Manzano has achieved the highest overall score on this examination, topping all other candidates worldwide who sat for 95,800 CIA parts. The Gold Medal is the highest of the prestigious William S. Smith Awards for Outstanding CIA Examination Performance, followed by the Certificate of Excellence Award and Certificate of Honor Award. Congratulations Elisheba on this momentous achievement!

This is the third time in three years that the CIA Gold Medal Award has been awarded by the IIA Int'l. Board of Regents to a Filipino. Three Gold Medal Awards for three consecutive years is indeed a mark of excellence in Philippine CIA history! If we may recall briefly, **Duke Bajenting** and **Duchess Marie Cruz** have earned the William S. Smith Gold Medal Award in May 2004 and November 2005, respectively. Incidentally, Elisheba means "Princess". Global CIA Gold Medalists: Duke, Duchess and now "Princess " Elisheba fittingly lead the royal entourage with their priceless laurels.

Joining Elisheba in the Global CIA Topnotchers roster are three other Filipino CIAs **Renee Lyn Oldem Santos** of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), **Christine Coprado Aserios** of Department of Budget and Management, and **Suzy Lyn Acebuque Bayona** of Calenergy International Services, Inc.. These three Filipinas have each earned the **William S. Smith Certificate of Honor Award**. This means that in addition to successfully completing the CIA exam in one sitting, each of them had also submitted one of the twenty-five best exam papers following those of the Gold Medalist and the five Certificate of Excellence recipients.

The IIA-Philippines(IIA-P), an affiliate of IIA, Inc. International, is proud of the fact that Elisheba, Duchess, Renee Lyn, Christine, Suzy Lyn and a good number of CIA passers are products of the IIA-P's CIA technical seminars, which have been conducted by CIA Instructors, most of whom happen to be members of the Board of Directors of IIA-P, namely Helen de Guzman (Meralco), Edna de Leon (Shopwise Supercenter), Mary Jane Rosales (Petron Corp.), Reginald Nery (KPMG Manabat Sanagustin & Co.), Susan Domingo (ICTSI), Melanie Oteyza (San Miguel Corp.), and John Estioko (PBCom).

Furthermore, the May 2007 examinations produced 129 CIAs, 6 CCSAs, and 9 CFSAs from the Philippine candidates. Locally, the IIA-P measures the quality of the Philippine candidates' results through the average pass rates per batch. The average pass rates for the May 2007 batch are shown at right:

Also, this year marked yet another success of the Philippine banking auditors/examiners that registered a high turnout and delivered impressive CIA pass rates, as follows: **Bank of the Philippine Islands** 100%, **Chinabank** 100%, **ING Bank** 100%, **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** 78%, **Asian Development Bank** 67%, **BDO Bank** 60% and **Metrobank** 56%.

The names of the May 2007 successful candidates are listed below. We now have 891 Philippine CIAs here and abroad, who are actively contributing in private sector, public sector/government, multi-lateral development agencies, academe, as well as in non-stock/non-profit organizations.

We praise God Almighty as we congratulate our new CIAs, CFSAs, CCSAs, their Corporate Sponsors, the mentors during the CIA seminars, IIAP Secretariat staff, the IIAP Board and Officers, the Certifications Committee, CIA proctors, and the families of our successful candidates who all share in the joy of this commendable achievement.

In recognition of professional excellence, The Institute of Internal Auditors' - Philippines is celebrating its 60th Annual Convention in October 2007. The Certified Internal Auditor®, the Certification in Control Self-Assessment®, and the Certified Financial Services Auditor® designations will be honored in this celebration.

The members and guests from all over the country will gather on October 25 – 27 at the Pryce Plaza, Cagayan De Oro City to recognize and celebrate professional excellence.

The CIA designation is The IIA's premiere certification and is the only professional designation for internal auditors that is recognized worldwide. The CCSA designation allows candidates to prove their knowledge of CSA approaches, risks and controls, and organizational performance. The CGAP is awarded to individuals who demonstrate knowledge of auditing practices, methodologies, and skills in the government sector. The CFSA measures an individual's knowledge and proficiency in the audit practices within banking, insurance and securities. All candidates receiving one or all of the above designations have met the rigorous requirements of The Institute of Internal Auditors' certification programs. They have attained all of the attributes of a professional: a college education, work experience, continuing professional development, and knowledge of The IIA's Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, and successful completion of the certification examination.

The CIA, CCSA, CFSA, and CGAP examinations are offered worldwide in 17 languages. During its celebration, the IIA-Philippines will recognize its certified individuals and will encourage those members who aren't certified to register today.

Established in 1941, The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) is an international professional association with world headquarters in Altamonte Springs, Florida, USA. The IIA has more than 130,000 members in internal auditing, risk management, governance, internal control, IT audit, education, and security. The IIA is the recognized authority, principal educator, and acknowledged leader in certification, research, and technological guidance for the profession worldwide.

As our CIA Gold Medalist and global Topnotchers bring so much pride to the Filipinos, we in IIAP and our fellow CIAs give back all the praises to **God Almighty** who deserves the ultimate glory!

Edel Mary D. Vegamora, CIA
CIA Country Coordinator - Philippines
[CFO, Sun Life Financial – Philippines]

Alexander T. Cordero, CIA
Deputy CIA Coordinator - Philippines
[Associate Director, Ayala Corporation]

## INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS - PHILIPPINES
## MAY 2007 CIA/CCSA/CFSA PASSERS

### Certified Internal Auditor

| | Full Name | COMPANY |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Alexandro Mediodia Acap | Punongbayan & Araullo |
| 2 | Belen Julie Bathan Aguila | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 3 | Maria Cecilia Gutierez Aguilar | KL Sy and Associates |
| 4 | Lawrence Dilag Aguinaldo | Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. |
| 5 | Ma. Catherine San Jose Algarote | Manabat Delgado, Amper & Co. (Deloitte-Phils.) |
| 6 | Ines Eliza Aurellado Alminiana | IBM Business Services Inc. |
| 7 | Leilah Yasmin Estrada Alpad | Calenergy International Services, Inc. - ROHQ |
| 8 | Feliciano Bayquen Alvarez | KPMG Manabat Sanagustin & Co. |
| 9 | Marie Claire Tilarca Amores | Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. |
| 10 | Ma. Teresa Nacion Andrade | Asian Development Bank |
| 11 | Jefferson Basanes Apolinar | Intel Technology Phils. Inc. |
| 12 | Maria Elizabeth Hernandez Arguelles | |
| 13 | Julieta Fernandez Aseo | Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office |
| 14 | Christine Coprado Asorios | Department of Budget and Management |
| 15 | Mary Grace Ucab Badajos | Isla Lipana & Co. |
| 16 | Rolan Palingcod Bug-Ao | Philippine Health Insurance Corp. |
| 17 | Ma. Theresa Tuliao Baladad | Philippine Airlines Inc. |
| 18 | Marvin Taguiba Barbara | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company |
| 19 | Emeteria Cascala Bastillo | Bureau of Internal Revenue |
| 20 | Carmelo Lekay Bautista | The Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd. |
| 21 | Maria Nessa Tajardo Bautista-Calma | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 22 | Maridel Marbella Bayaban | Equitable PCI Bank |
| 23 | Suzy Lyn Acebuque Bayona | Calenergy International Services, Inc. |
| 24 | Ma. Lourdes Nogueira Bernabe | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 25 | Nancy Sison Bernardo | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 26 | Anna Leah Agustin Billon | Punongbayan & Araullo |
| 27 | Sheena Trinidad Bonifacio | Manabat Delgado, Amper & Co. (Deloitte-Phils.) |
| 28 | Karla Stephen Florendo Brillantes | Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. |
| 29 | Rudyard Pangan Buscato | Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. |
| 30 | Richard Isleta Caag | Eastech Advanced Assembly Inc. |
| 31 | Princess Madeline Adao Cabal | China Banking Corp. |
| 32 | Jowilo Magdaleno Reyes Cabas | International Container Terminal Services Inc. |
| 33 | Ma. Janelle Bermudo Canseso | Century Communities Corporation |
| 34 | Gerald Casipit Cantor | Ernst & Young UK |
| 35 | Mark Tristan Dela Cruz Caparas | Petron Corp. |
| 36 | Katrina Bautista Castro | SGV & Co. |
| 37 | Emily Mendiola Causon | Fil-Estate Properties Inc. |
| 38 | Mary Joy Asido Ching | |
| 39 | Joanna Marie David Chua | Aboitiz Transport System Corporation |
| 40 | Leslie Uy Chuan | Shoemart, Inc. |
| 41 | Carolina Guevarra Clarin | Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. |
| 42 | Love Joyce Cabrera De Guzman-Ang | Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. |
| 43 | Joanne Fristel Loyola De Quintos | Shell Shared Services (Asia) B.V. |
| 44 | Jonathan Condz Dela Cruz | Shell Shared Service Centre - Manila |
| 45 | Jovy Leyesa Dimaano | Shopping Center Management Corp. |
| 46 | Priscilla Claire Denzon Dolol | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 47 | Julie Ann Ebarvia Domingo | Citigroup Business Services |
| 48 | Rolel Franco Dueñas | |
| 49 | Rose Marie Pabalang Elizaga | Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc. |
| 50 | Noel Grupal Escalo | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company |
| 51 | Lourdes Nalividad Escobar | Metrobank |
| 52 | Aprilyn Romallosa Escucha | Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corp. |
| 53 | Michelle Arroyo Fajardo | Isla Lipana & Co. |
| 54 | Robert Emmanuel Ramos Francisco | KPMG Manabat Sanagustin & Co. |
| 55 | Charisse Basak Gambalan | Punongbayan & Araullo |
| 56 | Hekil Lynne Blanco Gan | Development Bank of the Philippines |
| 57 | Lian Siao Garciano | XEbis Philippines Inc. |
| 58 | Akilwin Nav Gatchalian | Ernst & Young Corporate Services Limited |
| 59 | Edgardo Mayuga Herrera | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company |
| 60 | Rizza Esmeralda Ramirez Javier | Advance Agro Public Co. Ltd. |
| 61 | Edward Evan Pingol Justo | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 62 | Jona Tan Kalagbac | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 63 | Natassja Arjulyn Sy King | Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. |
| 64 | Anna Rachelle Santiago Lafuente | |
| 65 | Jesus Maria Morales Lava | Manabat Delgado Amper & Co. (Deloitte- |
| 66 | Joule Susaya Leonido | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 67 | Rowena Patubo Libunao | Petron Corp. |
| 68 | Julie Sabas Lim | Manabat Delgado, Amper & Co. (Deloitte-Phils.) |
| 69 | Alvin Tallada Magat | PLDT Inc. |
| 70 | Maria Sunshine Sabangan Magleo | Chevron Holdings Inc. |
| 71 | Justina Alcantara Magsino | Meiro Philippines |
| 72 | Marivic Abanto Mallare | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 73 | Elisheba Etabag Manzano | Punongbayan & Araullo |
| 74 | Jay Oliver Cabaloan Mariano | Jaka Investment Corp. |
| 75 | Rose Shiela Guevara Mendoza | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 76 | Abigail Bautista Mercado | Shell Shared Services BV |
| 77 | Alex Policarpio Montalbo | Development Bank of the Philippines |
| 78 | Perlita Bautista Montemayor | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 79 | Henry Tagum Murillo | |
| 80 | Walter Tan Ong | Chevron Holdings Inc |
| 81 | John Iiben Pascua Pabona | SGV & Co. |
| 82 | Arlene Aushia Padel | Aboitiz Transport System Corporation |
| 83 | Karen Osorio Pagaduan | Pricewaterhouse Coopers |
| 84 | Christine Marie Castro Pangdangonan | Chevron Holdings Inc |
| 85 | Mariz Chio Gerospe Pajarillo | San Miguel Corp. |
| 86 | Paolo Melchor Mariano Papa | Bases Conversion and Devt. Authority |
| 87 | Abigail Blanca Malalintal Pena | PricewaterhouseCoopers |
| 88 | Rochelle Marie Reyes Pelel | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 89 | Alvin Dave Manuel Pising | Isla Lipana & Co. |
| 90 | Caroline Sanaa Quiambao | San Miguel Corp. |
| 91 | Ma. Cristina Cuevas Rago | Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. |
| 92 | Richard Turio Ramirez | Schlumberger Middle East |
| 93 | Julie Ann Pakis Ramos, Jr. | Chevron Holdings Inc. |
| 94 | Swanie Morole Rocio | ING Bank N.V. - Manila Branch |
| 95 | Mary Ann Hapin Reyes | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 96 | John-Drew Capalar Reyes | Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. |
| 97 | Aldine Hutalla Rosaldo | Asian Development Bank |
| 98 | Bernadette Franco Ruiz | San Miguel Corp. |
| 99 | Hdel Cordowe Sato | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 100 | Renee Lyn Oldem Santos | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 101 | Dindo Ramos Santos | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 102 | Joemel Dayola Santos | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 103 | Jean Irene Estorosas Santos | Bank of the Philippine Islands |
| 104 | Arlex Juan Santos | Philippine Business Bank |
| 105 | Jayson Varona Sarl | San Miguel Purefoods Co. Inc. |
| 106 | Mark Jeanore Anthon Saveron | Aboitiz and Company Inc. |
| 107 | Aaron Mendoza Say | Smart Communications, Inc. |
| 108 | Marlcris Uy See | SGV & Co. |
| 109 | Sharon Patricia Joyce De Guzman Serrano | Globe Telecom, Inc. |
| 110 | Melani Jacob Soriano | Allied Banking Corporation |
| 111 | Dixon Lao Sze | |
| 112 | Abigail Ebalo Tamayo | Bank of the Philippine Islands |
| 113 | Roslyn Romulo Tan | Manila Electric Company |
| 114 | Edwin Vinas Tapay | UBIX Diong |
| 115 | Manny Canuto Tapucol | Punongbayan & Araullo |
| 116 | Marlevic Lucas Tocson | Equitable PCI Bank |
| 117 | Ali Cortes Tiboron | Manabat Delgado, Amper & Co. (Deloitte-Phils.) |
| 118 | Cherry Jane Margate Torregosa | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company |
| 119 | Dominador Torres Torres III | Pepsi Cola Products Phils. Inc. |
| 120 | Maria Rissa Pania Vargas | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 121 | Honorato Calanjal Velasco, Jr. | Children International |
| 122 | Carlota Mendoza Velasco | Equitable PCI Bank |
| 123 | Anthony Vergel Bahia Velasco | Philippine Health Insurance Corp. |
| 124 | Pilar Navarro Vila | St. Luke's Medical Center |
| 125 | Susana Santos Villacarlo | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 126 | Lenyvi Montalbo Villaseñor | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 127 | Randy Limos Viola | |
| 128 | Rouvelle Cardenas Viray | National Transmission Corporation |
| 129 | Ivelle Crisline Cruz Zamora | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |

### May 2007 Certification Exam Results Summary - Philippines Average Pass Rates

| CIA | Part 1 | Part 2 | Part 3 | Part 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Took | 212 | 217 | 211 | 21 |
| Passed | 154 | 156 | 138 | 10 |
| Percentage | 73% | 72% | 65% | 48% |

CFSA – 75% (6 out of 8)
CCSA – 75% (9 out of 12)

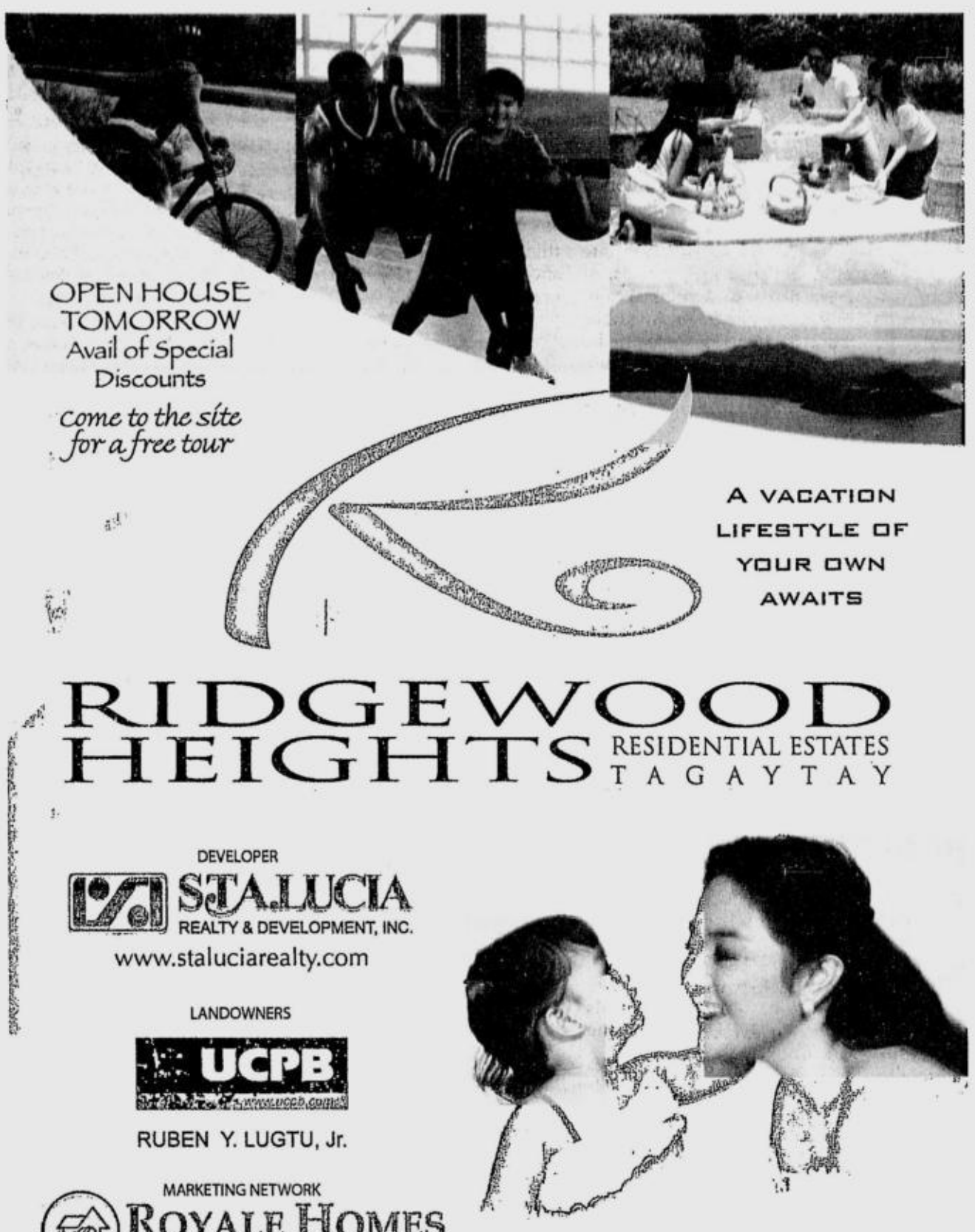
### Certification on Control Self-Assessment

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Shirley Contreras Bato | Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. |
| 2 | Jacob Francis Choa Bautista | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. (ATSC) |
| 3 | Catherine Sy Co | Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. |
| 4 | Mylene Joy Santiago Miranda | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. (ATSC) |
| 5 | Yuichiro Ogino | Asian Development Bank |
| 6 | Princess Marie Angeles Tayag | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. (ATSC) |

### Certified Financial Services Auditor

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Cynthia Alcantara Almirez | GE Money bank |
| 2 | Zarah Ophelia Jovida Anda | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 3 | Jeffrey Perez Darang | Bank of the Philippine Islands |
| 4 | Girlie Cruz Galang | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 5 | Alexis Lagurin Lagura | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 6 | Leah Sanchez Lozano | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 7 | Sheryll Gregorio Musni | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 8 | Florabelle Mendoza Santos-Madrid | Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas |
| 9 | Geraldine Jamora Tiu | GE Money bank |

**Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines**




**ASEAN SCHOOL TOUR**

**Ong Keng Yong, secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), addresses students at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith), the host Philippine school of for the Asean Schools Tour. The tour intends to acquaint over 4,000 students in the region with the objectives of Asean and to prepare Asean youths for better cooperative relations within member countries and with other countries.**

# Former RSBS chief seeks case dismissal

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines-Retirement and Separation Benefits System has asked the Sandiganbayan to dismiss the estafa and graft cases against him in connection with an alleged P1.4 million land deal in 1997.

In a demurrer to evidence, retired Brig. Gen. Jose Ramiscal Jr. asserted that the prosecution has insufficient evidence to prove that he pocketed P1.2 million representing the purported discrepancy in the purchase of a lot in Batangas on April 14, 1997.

His coaccused in the case filed with the antigraft's court Fifth Division are former RSBS executives Col. Perfecto Quilicot and lawyer Meinrado Bello.

Ramiscal is facing 17 counts of graft and 12 counts of falsification of public documents in various divisions of the court involving more than P100 million for the allegedly irregular real estate acquisition in Tanauan, Batangas between 1996 and 1997.

In his motion dated Oct. 15, Ramiscal also said that the prosecution failed to prove that the documents—two deeds of absolute sale containing contradictory costs of P1,470,156 and P218,340—were falsified.

Ramiscal and the two others allegedly made it appear that the real estate in Batangas was acquired at P218,340 when the amount of P1.4 million was released from the coffers of the military pension fund to purchase it.

In a 10-page comment, the prosecution disputed Ramiscal's claims, maintaining that the main issue in a demurrer to evidence was not whether its evidence has proven the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt.

"When faced with a demurrer to evidence, what the court merely has to determine is whether the prosecution's evidence is sufficient to support a guilty verdict," said John Turalba, assistant prosecutor III.

He further asserted that Ramiscal and his coaccused's culpability has been established through the deeds of sale they signed "revealing their sinister design and evident bad faith on the highly anomalous transaction."

"If the transaction was really above board, the accused would not have gone through executing two deeds covering the same subject lot. There would not have been something amiss in the execution of two deeds if not for the fact that [they] contain different acquisition costs," the prosecution said.

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# 3 anti-GMA bishops lead renewed demand ...

From page A1

distracted by this political noise."

He said Ms Arroyo would "remain focused on her job" and would "not be sidetracked by all these controversies."

### 'Intolerable acts'

KME chair Jaime Regalario said the group was seeking the President's resignation because it believed that her impeachment could not compel her to answer for what it called "a series of intolerable acts."

"We want to urge and pressure her to resign because an impeachment case would always be in her favor," Regalario said in an interview, adding that the impeachment complaint filed by private lawyer Roel Pulido was a weak one.

He said the KME also doubted that Congress could get the necessary numbers to remove Ms Arroyo from office.

Regalario said the call for the President to step down was also a call for other "tainted" officials to do the same.

He said that despite the perceived rift between Ms Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia, the KME was not aligning itself with the latter because it considered him "tainted" by some of the current controversies.

The Speaker called on Wednesday for a large-scale and credible overhaul of the Cabinet, saying "a new Cabinet made up of competent men with integrity" was needed by Ms Arroyo to cleanse "government and society."

To this, Bunye said: "That's the prerogative of the President. And of course, as I said, the No. 1 guideline or criterion would be the trust and confidence of the President—and, if I may add, the perceived ability of the appointee to implement the programs and policies of the President."

### Corruption

Describing the supposed corruption in the Arroyo administration as "unparalleled" in Philippine history, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reiterated the call he made on Wednesday for Ms Arroyo to step down and hand over power to Vice President Noli de Castro.

And a group calling itself the "Concerned Citizens" conducted a motorcade of around 24 cars that noisily wended its way from The Fort in Taguig City to Makati City's business district to denounce Malacañang's "sham probe" of the distribution of money to lawmakers and local officials on Oct. 11 and to demand that Ms Arroyo step down.

But Secretary Ricardo Saludo warned against another Edsa-type revolt to oust Ms Arroyo.

"Except for a misguided few, our people have rightly set aside extra-constitutional actions in resolving political issues. We are now rewarded with global confidence in our stability as a nation, and the vindication of our trust in duly constituted democratic processes, as seen in the overall results of the last elections," Saludo said.

He said Malacañang was supporting the call to stamp out corruption in all three branches of government and across the political spectrum.

"In this regard, we may need to review major agency policies, programs and projects, to check if there was any undue interference by politicians that may require remedial action by the government as well as further investigation by antigraft bodies," Saludo said.

He said the President and the Cabinet were united with the people in their "struggle for political reform and national progress," he added.

### Sufficient basis

Pimentel said there was sufficient basis to charge Ms Arroyo with malversation of government funds (if the Oct. 11 handouts came from state coffers) or bribery (if the money was from private sources).

"Either way, our laws have been utterly violated. She will get hit either way. It's an open-and-shut case," he said at the Kapihan sa Senado.

"It's difficult to look for a proper word [to describe corruption in this administration]," Pimentel said, adding:

"She has become *manhid* (numb) to these complaints. The people need to have respite from overwhelming corruption in this government, which is unparalleled in its history.

"She's worse than [the late dictator Ferdinand] Marcos. At least Marcos took pains to camouflage the raids on the public treasury and the violation of the Constitution by legal subterfuges. But this particular administration does not care for legal niceties.

"She cannot just put government money in a paper bag and give it away to anybody."

Pimentel said the public should not fear any void created by a change in administration because there was an alternative to Ms Arroyo who could take charge in a holdover capacity until the 2010 elections.

"Noli cannot be worse than Gloria to begin with. Noli will prove that he is not corrupt," the senator said.

Although he had wanted De Castro to resign along with Ms Arroyo in 2005 at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal, Pimentel said it was impractical for the Vice President to step down considering that elections would be held in two years.

### 'All the chances'

Former Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales also called for Ms Arroyo's resignation to pave the way for a "snap" election.

"She has had all the chances," said Rosales, chair emeritus of the party-list group. "She should have done something about [former Elections Commissioner Virgilio] Garcillano, she should have done something about the wiretap, she should have done something about the 1 million votes [supposedly added to her votes]. These remained unresolved. The people has lost their trust in this government."

Rosales pointed out that government officials were "accountable to the people, who deserve nothing less."

Per her account, Rosales was given P500,000 for the approval of the power bill during the 11th Congress.

She said she was stunned and immediately sought an investigation.

But this stirred a hornet's nest among members of the "old boys club" in the House, who retaliated by blocking all her proposed bills, she said.

The inquiry was ultimately shelved after it was overtaken by events when President Joseph Estrada was impeached.

### Motorcade

During the protest motorcade, the cars adorned with balloons and anti-administration streamers traversed Edsa and Ayala Avenue, honking as they passed.

The protesters were made up of activists, ordinary citizens, and representatives of the Church, the academe and the business sector.

Among them were Edita Burgos, the mother of the missing activist Jonas Burgos, former Transportation Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco, and Marichu Vera Perez, sister of Speaker Jose de Venecia's wife Gina.

"Of course we are asking her to step down. No amount of promises can fix things this time," said Patricia Sison, a professor at the De La Salle University School of Business.

"We want to awaken the people that we have to do something and express our outrage and anger," Sison said.

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, called Ms Arroyo a "Suhol Queen"—a reference to allegations that the Palace had tried to bribe lawmakers and local officials to kill the latest impeachment complaint filed against the President.

Reyes also assailed the internal investigation being conducted by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, saying it had a "dismal track record." He described the inquiry as "a sham" and "a farce."

He said more protest actions were being planned by militant and civil society groups as a result of the bribery allegations and the NBN-ZTE deal. ***With reports from Jeannette I. Andrade, Julie M. Aurelio, Jerome Aning and DJ Yap***

# Ermita denies quitting post, hits rumors

From page A1

have been close to Secretary Ermita since 1976, and have no doubt, if push came to shove, that we would always stand together," Puno said.

### 'I am where I am'

Ermita said he was "forced to make a statement" because he received calls early yesterday regarding his supposed resignation.

"I am denying categorically that I am resigning, or have offered to resign, because there's no reason for me to do that. If there are text messages on that matter, I think they are just intended to cause the destabilization of the administration," he said.

"So I have not offered to resign. I am where I am. Thank you."

Ermita said he was not present at the meeting where the money was supposedly distributed because he was "doing my job here in my office."

"So it's not true. And I wish we can just forewarn some people to check their sources because [such news] destroys [reputations]. I think too many rumors that are ridiculous have been circulated," he said.

Asked if he thought he was the target of a demolition job, he retorted: "Why me?" He added: "Never mind, that's part of public service."

### Clueless

Certain Palace officials said they were clueless about what was going on, but admitted that they knew of the rumors spreading outside.

"Right now, they're just that—rumors," said one official who is helping the President cushion the impact of the admission of at least two governors and two lawmakers that they were given bags of cash in Malacañang.

According to the accounts purportedly being received and talked about by the opposition, Ermita found out that it was Puno who was behind the handout and was infuriated that it occurred without his prior knowledge.

This explained why, according to the accounts, Ermita could hardly answer questions about the scandal. He was telling the truth when he said he knew nothing about it, according to one account.

The talk was that Ms Arroyo prevailed upon Ermita to stay put because quitting would lead to dangerous cracks in her administration's foundations.

Up until Ermita's press conference, there was no way to verify the swirling rumors with Malacañang officials.

But Ermita said all members of the Cabinet were fully accounted for.

"They are all in," he said, adding that they had been working quietly while opposition leaders were purportedly all over town trying to weaken the Arroyo administration.

### Cabinet revamp

The talk also had it that Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde would be the next casualties in a new round of Cabinet changes.

Remonde said he knew nothing about reports that he would take Bunye's place.

Bunye himself appeared surprised when asked if he would be the next chief of staff of the President—a position vacated by Michael Defensor, who ran and lost in the May senatorial elections.

"I don't know," Bunye said.

But he said any Cabinet revamp would "all depend on the President."

"As we have explained repeatedly, if and when the President feels that somebody has to move, she makes the appropriate action," he said.

On calls for Palace spokespersons to resign because of their apparent failure to defend Ms Arroyo, Bunye said the first criterion for becoming a Cabinet member was "the trust and confidence of the President."

"For as long as the trust and confidence are there, I think the official can remain in the position. As far as I'm concerned, I believe that the President still trusts me. But the moment that relationship is lost, the trust and confidence, there's no point for any Cabinet member to stay one day longer in the position," he said.

Reports also had it that Ms Arroyo was consolidating her media team to counter the bad press by putting loyal lieutenants in government stations.

Undersecretaries Tonypet Albano and Robert Rivera are supposed to head Channel 4 and RPN 9, respectively, according to the reports.

Albano has confirmed his new posting, but Rivera was clueless when contacted yesterday.

Bunye also echoed Ermita, saying the talk that the executive secretary had resigned or was planning to resign was "absolutely untrue."

### 'Happy' people

Certain people "are happy sending false news, while the others are equally happy forwarding news that are unverified," he said.

"Our request is when you receive a report like this, which is unverified, the best thing to do is not pass the unverified report," he said.

Bunye said Ermita was not affected at all "because when [the talk] got around, he immediately called me and asked me to deny it."

"He said, 'You can deny that' ... So there's absolutely no truth [to it]. And when I was called earlier by another reporter, I said that it seems that rumor-mongering has replaced basketball as a national pastime," Bunye said. ***With a report from Tony Bergonia***

# De Venecia OKs House inquiry into cash gifts

From page A1

De Venecia said the planned inquiry by the House committees on good government and ethics should use as a launch pad the admissions by Representatives Bienvenido Abante of Manila and Antonio Cuenco of Cebu that they had received Palace doleouts.

"We feel like vomiting with all these stories of corruption," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "We must take the lead using whatever information we have now. The allegations of bribery have to be investigated."

De Venecia said he was supporting the inquiry as part of his call for a "moral revolution."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, coauthor of a resolution calling for the investigation, said De Venecia's show of support should help smoke out even more lawmakers who had received money from Malacañang.

"It sends the right signal to his followers to tell the truth," he told the INQUIRER. "With that kind of imprimatur, we're more hopeful that this investigation will get somewhere."

### Moral recovery

Casiño said it was to be expected since "it would be hypocritical for the Speaker to call for a moral recovery to be led by the executive (branch) without him starting it in his own backyard."

De Venecia acknowledged that the investigation would not exactly come easily, considering that congressmen themselves would be placed on the hot seat.

Previous accounts said as many as 190 administration lawmakers attended a breakfast meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Thursday last week. At the end of the affair allegedly came the distribution of cash ranging from P150,000 to P500,000.

De Venecia said he had no personal knowledge of the distribution since he arrived at the Palace at around 10:30 p.m. or half an hour after the two-hour gathering had ended. By his recollection, he said there were "140 to 150" lawmakers who had come by.

### Source of money

The Speaker said the congressional probe—if approved when the lower chamber resumes its session early next month after a break—should identify the source of the money and the reason behind the distribution.

"If it was given by a private donor for some public benefit, it could have been bribery," he said.

De Venecia also said the cash gifts should be "welcomed" if they were intended for antipoverty and community projects. But he made it clear that such amounts should be spent only after the barangay and youth elections.

"From a technical standpoint, they shouldn't be used during the elections because the elections are supposed to be nonpartisan," he said. "And the money should involve receipts and auditing and accounting procedures."

### Puno to be summoned

Yesterday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he planned to summon Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno to appear before a Senate inquiry he had proposed in Senate Resolution No. 172 seeking a probe of the alleged string of bribes to government officials in the past week.

The earliest that Lacson's resolution would be tackled is on Nov. 5 when senators come back from their month-long break.

"Puno will be among those who should be summoned. After all he's the one explaining to media so he must really have a big role in the this mess," Lacson said.

Puno, a former chair of Kampi, had sought to explain the P1 million to P2 million bribe offered by an executive of the President's political party to opposition congressmen in exchange for their support of a bogus impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

He also had claimed that the funds distributed in Malacañang came from the office of Speaker De Venecia.

### Most credible prober

Amid calls that the Ombudsman or the Philippine Anti-Graft Commission and not the Senate was the better unit to look into the bribery allegations, Lacson maintained that the upper chamber should take charge in this issue.

"It (Senate) may not be the best but it is surely the most credible given the circumstances and situation," Lacson said.

In a statement, DILG Assistant Secretary Brian Yamsuan said: "We have high respect for Senator Lacson and Secretary Puno is willing to appear in the Senate if invited and answer all the senators' questions. We are always present in budget hearings."

At a news conference yesterday, former Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales urged De Venecia to "exercise political will to end this culture of bribery in Congress."

"Tell all," she urged members of Congress. "Those who attended the meeting with the President should divulge when they got the money and who gave them. They should divulge everything."

She said the money should be returned, adding that whether it is "a gift or an out and out payoff, those who took it are liable for violating the law." ***With reports from Jerome Aning and Jeannette I. Andrade***


**BULLDOG SUPERGLUE TV COMMERCIAL: TRUE OR NOT TRUE?**

This has been one of the longest standing questions in the minds of consumers today. Is the Bulldog TV commercial for real? Were there camera tricks involved while doing this commercial? Can a few drops of Bulldog Superglue really hang a 175-lb man upside down in just 5 seconds?

While the Bulldog TV ad raised some doubts, the impact of the Bulldog ad remains both incredible and remarkable. A lot of people were amazed and will continually be amazed by the Bulldog ad. But still the question remains, is it really true?

Some say it's in the shoes of actor/director Jon Achaval, who was the person hung upside down by Bulldog Superglue. Others claim it's in the lenses of the cameraman who shot the commercial. Still, others believe it's the power of technology (in the advent of digital and computer-generated films, you can't really blame consumers who think this way). Actually, the realilty of the ad lies on the fact that the Bulldog TV commercial could never be aired unless proven true and approved by an official regulating authority.

*"Bulldog Superglue The product that turned the market upside down"*

*Trusted Brand*

Actor Jon Achaval himself confessed that he feared the consequences in case Bulldog failed to bond. But he trusted Bulldog and earned himself a page in the history of superglues. Notably, not even the competition has dared ask or objectedto the reality of the ad as they know it to be true. Bottomline, Bulldog Superglue has been proven as One of the World's Strongest -- in fact, the only superglue that can hang a man upside down with just a few drops. BELIEVE IT! THE BULLDOG SUPERGLUE TV COMMERCIAL IS TRUE!

Indeed, Bulldog Superglue's ultimate demonstration of strength as seen on its controversial TV commercial has withstood all the criticisms and allegations of some doubting consumers. The Bulldog TV ad may be controversial but the superior bonding strength of Bulldog Superglue which has been proven over and over by thousands of consumers prevails. AND YOUR VERDICT?

If you have questions about the ad, you may contact the manufacturer, CORD Chemicals, Inc. at (02)531-4860 or fax to (02)531-4747 or email them at marketing@cordchem.com.

# Eastwood City developer RP's newest billionaire

From page A1

Shopping mall king Henry Sy was second with a net worth of $1.7 billion. Tobacco, alcohol and airline tycoon Lucio Tan came in third with $1.6 billion.

Last year, these two businessmen were first and second, respectively, with $4 billion and $2.3 billion, but their net worth was adjusted down this year when Forbes Asia learned new information about their holding company structures, it said in a statement.

"The Philippines is making a comeback. Second-quarter growth of 7.5 percent was the highest in two decades and unemployment was 8 percent, the lowest since 1997," said project editor Justin Doebele.

The 40 richest people in the Philippines are worth a combined $17 billion—$1 billion more than last year, Forbes said.

### McDonald's, Eastwood

Andrew Tan is the chair of Alliance Global Group Inc., a holding firm that owns a sizeable block in the local McDonald's franchise through Golden Arches Development Corp.

AGI also owns 46 percent of Megaworld Corp., whose projects include Eastwood City in Quezon City and Greenbelt Parkplace and Salcedo towers in Makati.

Megaworld is touted to be a leader in the property market's fast-growing segment of mid-income housing, and is said to be the pioneer developer of urban information technology or BPO parks in the country.

### Old Iloilo port

Megaworld recently made the news with its recent purchase of the 54.5-hectare Iloilo airport in Mandurriao, Iloilo, for P1.2 billion.

Andrew Tan also owns distilled spirits manufacturing company Emperador Distillers Inc., which produces top-selling brandy Emperador and Generoso.

AGI's consolidated net income hit P2.1 billion in the first half of 2007 from P224.8 million in the same period last year. *Reports from AFP and Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

# Palace defends GMA order in bribery ...

From page A1

to order an agency that's under her, and this is the PAGC," he said.

Bunye said the commission's mandate was limited to investigating graft charges against appointive officials, not elective ones which are subject to Ombudsman proceedings.

"The point here is that the No. 1 concern is to find out where the funds came from and how it was disbursed. So I think, given that parameter, the PACG would be able to conduct its investigation," he said. *(See In the Know on this page.)*

PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman said in a text message to Inquirer Central Luzon that the commission had started its investigation.

"Yes, we're working on that," De Guzman said.

She declined to discuss details, saying this was how the PAGC handled all other cases in its fact-finding phases.

She also did not say when the investigation started.

### Clear parameters

Bunye reiterated that Ms Arroyo had acted on the purported cash handouts as early as Oct. 12 although it was announced only on Wednesday.

"Frankly, we did not know because it was given as a direct order to the PAGC chair. But I believe that even at that point, some reporters already got wind of the orders given to the PAGC. But Chair Connie de Guzman agreed to be interviewed on an off-the-record basis [at the time]," he said.

Bunye called for restraint, and asked the public to await the results of the PAGC investigation.

He said the parameters given to the commission were clear. "But according to Sen. Francis Escudero, the PAGC could not conduct a credible investigation into the Oct. 11 cash handouts.

He said PAGC findings and its recommendations to Malacanang were always kept confidential.

"Whatever happened to its past investigations and recommendations? Were they followed or acted upon? This might just end up as a mere investigation," he said.

Escudero had earlier said it was the office of the Ombudsman that should look into the distribution of cash ranging from P200,000 to P500,000.

He said Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez could not turn a blind eye to the controversy.

"Until now we haven't heard anything from them," he said.we hope to get some results," he added.

ESCUDERO

BUNYE

Escudero also said the Ombudsman could easily tap the Anti-Money Laundering Council to trace the physical source of the money through the serial numbers.

### Annoyed

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera complained that the controversy over the cash handouts had taken focus away from more important issues.

She also said the positive intent of the giving of the money, which was supposedly to help the recipients and their constituents, was not being shown in a favorable light.

When told that the President was reportedly angered by the giving of money, Devanadera said: "*Ako nga inis eh* (I myself am annoyed.)

"There are a lot of problems that have to be addressed, and this is what is talked about. And if ever someone was helped, it's not placed in a good light," she told reporters.

She added that the impression she got from Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio was that the money was supposed to be a form of assistance, although she added that she did not know all the details of the incident.

Devanadera called on the public to give the PAGC a chance to look into the matter.

### Assistance

The acting justice secretary, a former mayor of Sampaloc, Quezon, also said she had approached then President Fidel Ramos to seek financial assistance when her town was devastated by a typhoon.

She said she was given a note in return promising her financial assistance.

When asked if she had received a cash gift when she was a mayor, she said she could not remember. But she said she had been given about P2,000 in gas money. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Leila B. Salaverria in Manila; Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

## IN THE KNOW

### PAGC has mandate

THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-graft Commission (PAGC) has the mandate not only to receive and initiate complaints but also to hear and rule on cases.

Created under Executive Order No. 12 by President Macapagal-Arroyo on April 16, 2001, PAGC has the power to investigate presidential and non-presidential appointees.

Section 4b of the EO says the commission, acting as a collegial body, shall have the authority to investigate or hear administrative cases or complaints against all presidential appointees in the government and any of its agencies and instrumentalities (including members of the governing board of any instrumentality, regulatory agency, chartered institution and directors or officers appointed or nominated by the President to government-owned or -controlled corporations or corporations where the government has a minority interest or who otherwise represent the interests of the government).

The appointees in the agencies must occupy the position of assistant regional director, or an equivalent rank, and higher, otherwise classified as Salary Grade "26" and higher, of the Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989 (Republic Act No. 6758).

The same provision states that non-presidential appointees who may have acted in conspiracy, or who may have been involved with a presidential appointee, may now be investigated by the PAGC.

PAGC's work, however, is strictly recommendatory. It can recommend sanctions ranging from reprimand to dismissal from service but its findings are subject to the approval of the President. *Inquirer Research*

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# Gov't wants Sorsogon village emptied

IROSIN, SORSOGON—FOLLOWING MUD AND lahar flows that hit at least five villages in this town on Monday night, the Office of Civil Defense-Bicol (OCD-Bicol) said at least one of the villages has to be permanently vacated by residents to get them out of harm's way.

Bernardo Alejandro IV, OCD Bicol director, said residents of Barangay Cogon have to be permanently relocated as the threat of lahar and mudflows have now become more serious.

Alejandro said lahar and mud already created new channels that buried houses in Cogon.

The mud and lahar flows that hit the villages were old deposits from the slopes of Bulusan Volcano that heavy rains washed off, according to Bella Tubianosa, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology (Phivolcs).

Results of laboratory tests by Phivolcs showed that the lahar and mud samples they gathered were colored brown, indicating that they had been on the slopes of Bulusan for quite some time.

Tubianosa clarified that no explosion accompanied the flash floods as earlier reported by the residents.

However, she said Phivolcs surveyors noted a slight inflation at the northeast side slope of the volcano that could have been caused by volcanic quakes in recent days.

She reiterated a warning for people not to stray into a four-kilometer permanent danger zone around the volcano. Alert Level 1 remains over the volcano.

The local command of the New People's Army declared a suspension of offensive military operations in areas ravaged by flash floods in this town, a rebel spokesman said in a statement sent to media here.

The Celso Minguez Command of NPA-Sorsogon said it would allow relief and rehabilitation efforts to go unhampered.

Spokesperson Samuel Guerrero, however, said guerrillas would return fire if attacked.

More than a hundred families were transferred to evacuation centers in the villages of Cogon, Mapaso, Patag, Monbon and Bagsangan here after tons of mud and lahar rushed down from the slopes of Mt. Bulusan.

Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales said more than 500 persons, mostly children, women and the elderly, have remained at the evacuation centers while the able-bodied returned to their homes to help clear the debris. ***Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

# Body of maid slain in Canada comes home

**By Nikko Dizon,** *in Manila*
**and Vincent Cabreza,**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

THE REMAINS OF SLAIN DOmestic helper Jocelyn Dulnuan arrived in Manila yesterday as a militant migrant workers' organization appealed to the Arroyo administration to ensure that her killing was solved.

"We reiterate the assertion that the Arroyo (administration) must play an active role in ensuring that Jocelyn's killers are brought to justice. All legal and diplomatic avenues should be exerted so that her death does not become another statistic in a list of unsolved murder cases," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, chair of Migrante International, in a statement.

The group said that there are at least 23 cases of unsolved murders of Filipinos overseas since 2003.

"Most involved domestic workers who often toiled in isolation and (in) very vulnerable conditions," Migrante said.

Migrante members joined Dulnuan's husband, Sandy, and her mother, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) where her remains arrived at noon via Korean Airlines flight KE 621.

MILITANT group Migrante (above) rallies in front of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City to demand action from the Arroyo administration on the murder of Dulnuan. Dulnuan's mother (right) breaks into tears upon seeing the casket that bore the remains of her daughter on arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.
REM ZAMORA/JESS YUSON

### Grief

There were no hysterics from her family but the tears flowed. The Dulnuans have a four-year-old daughter, Migrante said.

The crate bearing Dulnuan's casket was loaded to a jeepney, and would be brought to Hingyon, Ifugao, her home province.

Dulnuan, 27, was found dead on Oct. 1 by her employer in their mansion in Mississauga City, Ontario.

Migrante took note that the Canadian police are "treating their investigation into the death as a murder case."

The return of Dulnuan's body was delayed by the investigation, according to Philippine and Canadian authorities.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent this information to Manuela Peña, Cordillera director of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa), shortly after 200 Filipinos in Canada launched a fund-raising campaign to bring home the body of Dulnuan.

### Secret details

Canadian police have not made public all the details surrounding the death of Dulnuan except to confirm that her death involved "foul play."

She said the Mississauga police kept the body to complete its investigation.

For the same reason, authorities have been barred from discussing Dulnuan's case.

Even the victim's family has kept mum.

Margie Alocilja, who accompanied Dulnuan's husband to the DFA on Friday, said they could only reveal the fact that the department had discussed Dulnuan's repatriation.

Reports from an online forum of Cordillerans said the Philippine consulate based in Toronto and its city government each pledged $5,000 for the return of Dulnuan's body to the Philippines.

In an Oct. 8 letter to Peña, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, who handles migrant workers' concerns, said the government processed the repatriation and had coordinated in the murder probe.

The Owwa had endorsed the case to the DFA, claiming its hands were tied due to problems concerning the victim's employment documents.

Peña said Dulnuan, who used to be based in Hong Kong, was holding legitimate migration papers when she moved to Canada in November 2006.

However, Dulnuan did not inform Philippine labor authorities that she had acquired employment in Mississauga, he said.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ecija villagers honor Navy Seal

SAN JOSE CITY—Three times, Emelita Bunao-Sistoza, asked her eldest son to quit the Philippine Navy.

Those times were when he was injured while in scuba diving training, another when he suffered a fracture in the arms while undergoing airborne training, and the last when he graduated as a Navy Seal on Sept. 14.

But the standard reply of her son, 28-year-old Seaman Second Class Radarman Joe Vincent Sistoza, according to his mother, was: "Just allow me to go on, Mama. It feels good to serve the country."

Mrs. Sistoza, who is based in Japan, said her son graduated from his 13-month training at Sangley Point, Cavite on Sept. 14. But after 18 days, or on Oct. 2, her son was dead.

Sistoza was one of four Navy men killed in an encounter with Abu Sayyaf bandits on Langhil Island, Basilan.

A streamer placed at the gate of the Sistozas' yard welcomed his remains here on Oct. 8. Emblazoned on the streamer are the words: "Welcome Navy Seal Joe Vincent Sistoza, Our New Hero."

Sistoza was buried at the Immortal Gardens Cemetery here on Wednesday. ***Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon***

### Pitch for Barasoain Church

CITY OF MALOLOS—In a bid to remind Filipinos about the role of the Barasoain Church in shaping the country's history, church and local officials in Bulacan are urging the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to re-include the church's image in any of the Philippine bills now in circulation.

Msgr. Angel Santiago, parish priest of Barasoain Church here, launched a signature campaign to drum up support for their appeal to bring back the image of the church to a Philippine bill.

"The people are starting to lose a sense of nationalism and history and a nation's currency system ought to help bring them back," Santiago said.

The image of the church, where the revolutionary congress convened and where the first Philippine Constitution was drafted in 1898, was included in the old P10 bill. However, the bill has been replaced by a P10 coin and only a few old bills have remained in circulation.

***Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon***

### China team probes candy poisoning

CEBU CITY—A six-man fact finding team from China had been to Cebu to investigate the food poisoning of 23 schoolchildren in a northern Cebu town who ate China-made candies.

The delegation included Ling Xiao and Kang Yiming from the People's Republic of China (PROC) Ministry of Commerce, Li Chaowei, Huang Peng, Chen Wenrui and Guo Dehua, officials of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

The six officials went to Madridejos town on Bantayan Island and talked to the schoolchildren and others who had knowledge of the incident, according to Madridejos Councilor Emie Mates-Gabito.

***Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas***

### Mayor wins polls, loses in Comelec

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Commission on Elections *en banc* has ruled that the elected mayor of Albur town in Bohol was disqualified as a candidate in the May 14 elections for failing the residency requirement.

The Comelec, in a decision dated Sept. 28, upheld the decision of its First Division nullifying the certificate of candidacy (COC) of Mayor Jose Ugdoracion because he did not meet the one-year residency requirement set under Section 29 of the Local Government Code.

The Comelec First Division cancelled the candidacy of Ugdoracion last May 8, several days before the elections, after hearing a petition filed by another mayoral candidate, Ephraim Tungol.

***Kit Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas***

### Animal bite cases alarm dads

ROXAS CITY—City councilors expressed alarm over the reported rise in the number of cases of animal bites in the city, which reached nearly 600 in the first nine months of the year.

Roxas City Health Office (RCHO) records showed that the number of cases of animal bites, including dog and cat bites, rose to 594 from January to September this year, including one fatality. Last year, the RCHO registered 603 animal bite cases.

Roxas City Councilor Amador Anisco, who chairs the committee on health, said the city government should immediately address the problem. ***Felipe V. Celino, Inquirer Visayas***

# Cops tag 199 ARMM villages poll concerns

COTABATO CITY—POLICE HAVE identified 199 villages in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as probable "hot spots" as the Commission on Elections braces for the holding of the country's Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

In a command conference held at the ARMM police headquarters here on Tuesday, regional police director Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said on top of the list of probable "areas of immediate concern" are some villages of Lanao del Sur, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Basilan.

"There will be a joint military-police concentration of forces in these barangays to ensure an orderly and peaceful conduct of the election," Goltiao said.

He characterized violent-prone areas based on the presence of "partisan armed groups," supporting particular candidates.

ARMM has a total of 2,495 barangays and their volatility, according to Goltiao, has been categorized into "areas of immediate concern, areas of concern, and areas difficult to access."

These villages are either Moro rebel strongholds or sanctuaries of lawless elements.

He said that after the Oct. 18 deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy, the Comelec and its deputized peacekeeping forces will be conducting a municipal-level peace covenant signing rite to remind candidates of their responsibility to uphold the law before, during and after the political exercise.

ARMM Comelec chief Mike Abas reminded candidates that political rivalry should not be made personal that may possibly lead to violence and more violence through vendetta killings.

Abas also ordered the police and the military to place in its security watchlist Kabuntalan and Parang towns of Shariff Kabunsuan, and Pagalungan in Maguindanao where the May 2007 mayoral contest has not yet been officially resolved. ***Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao***

# Judge orders release of Malaysian boat in poaching

**By Redempto Anda**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A judge on Monday ordered the release of a Malaysian fishing boat apprehended by Navy and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources personnel in Balabac for poaching in Philippine waters, catching government prosecutors by surprise.

Judge Toribio Ilao Jr. of Regional Trial Court Branch 52, cited as basis for his ruling the claim by its owners that the vessel had deteriorated and was about to sink in Puerto Bay, where it was docked pending completion of trial.

Public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies involved in the boat's seizure decried the court order and filed a motion for reconsideration in a bid to stop the departure of the vessel despite a P30,000 bail.

"We were surprised and extremely disappointed with the decision because the vessel is still under our custody. We have yet to offer it as evidence in the forthcoming trial and he (Judge Ilao) has ordered it released," chief provincial prosecutor Allen Rodriguez told the INQUIRER.

Ilao noted that the 34-ton boat was already "half-submerged" and that "it is more practical and beneficial to the government ... that temporary custody be given to the owner."

An official of the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants (PCIE) said that contrary to the claim of its Malaysian owners, the vessel was in good condition.

"I accompanied the representatives of the Malaysians in inspecting that boat just recently and it is in perfect condition. It is not submerged as stated by the court and it is far from sinking. That is absolutely not true," Navy Lt. Rolando Nastor, secretary of the PCIE, told the INQUIRER.

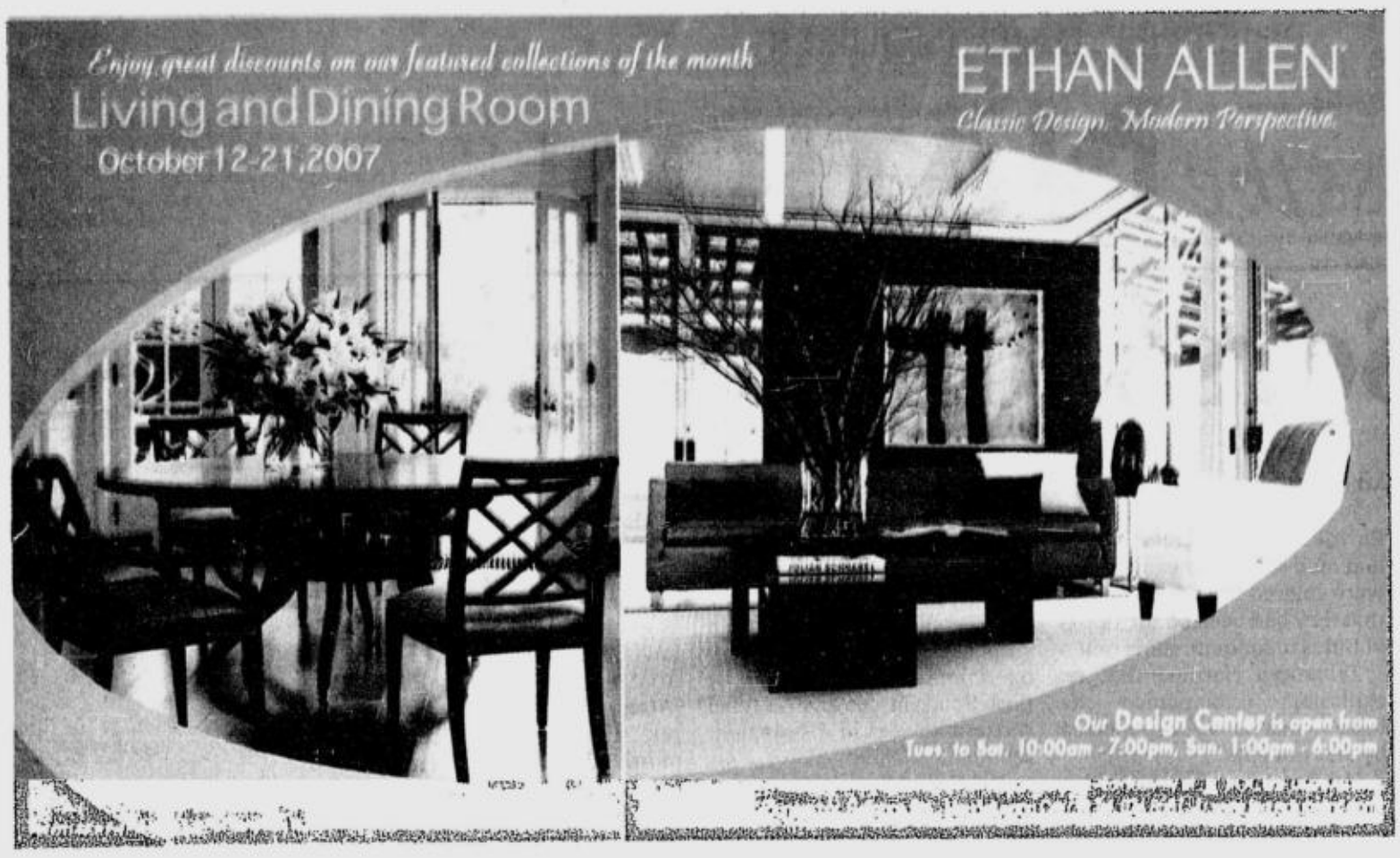
Prosecutor Regidor Tulali, who handles the case, said the boat could secretly leave the country once it is released to its owners.

"The judge relied on the statement an engine mechanic working for the owner that it is now only worth P30,000. That is absurd. At the very least, the court should have had it valued by a qualified appraiser," Tulali said.

The boat's five-member Malaysian crew will face trial in January. They were identified as Tunding Bin Ahad, 39, captain; Rollie Samsi, 29; Ebsil Bin Palimbong, 26; Ottong Bin Karibul, 22; and Muslim Walin, 20.

The vessel, registered under the name of Malaysian Chin Wi Wing, was caught by an inter-agency government enforcement team 14 nautical miles southeast of Mangsee Island, Balabac, on May 31.

Early this year, Judge Ilao ordered the release of a Chinese boat, King King Hai, while the case was undergoing pre-trial hearings. Five Chinese nationals were arrested for illegal fishing also off Mangsee on June 17, 2006.






# Erap sees little hope in reversal of conviction

ESTRADA

CONVICTED plunderer ex-President Joseph Estrada said his hopes were "not high" that the Sandiganbayan antigraft court would reverse its decision convicting him of plunder as it opens hearings today on his motion for reconsideration.

But the disgraced leader is determined to exhaust all the legal means open to make the public know that he is innocent, said lawyer Edward Serapio.

Serapio, who used to lawyer for Estrada, said he and the deposed president discussed the case yesterday, a day before his court appearance, during which Estrada continued to insist that he was innocent.

Estrada reportedly said he had no expectations that the Sandiganbayan Special Division would grant his petition to overturn its September decision convicting him of two counts of plunder and sentencing him to 40 years in prison.

## Lack of evidence

Estrada was acquitted of another charge of perjury. The court also acquitted his two co-accused, Serapio and his son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, because of insufficiency of evidence.

Estrada again reiterated his innocent plea before reporters outside his Polk St. residence in Greenhills yesterday.

"I believe we have a strong oral argument. I believe I am innocent from all these charges," Estrada said.

The Sandiganbayan granted Estrada's request for an overnight stay in San Juan so he can visit his mother and prepare for his court appearance. But he was prohibited from giving media interviews.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, Estrada's spokesman, said the defense is ready for the oral arguments today.

## 'Unfair trial'

He said the prosecution did not present a corroborating witness on the charge that Estrada received illegal gambling kickbacks and that the funds were not public funds.

Rodriguez claimed that the trial was also unfair to Estrada as he was "burdened with four crimes of plunder in a single amended information where Estrada needed to disprove each of the four predicate acts, while the prosecution needed to prove only one to get a conviction."

"The court convicted the accused on the basis of surmises, inferences and speculative evidence in violation of his constitutional right to presumption of innocence," he said.

The defense will also ask the court why Estrada was convicted while his alleged co-conspirators were acquitted, considering that the prosecution claimed that there was a conspiracy among them, Rodriguez said.

## Indefinite leave

Rodriguez said they would ask the court to grant Estrada's request for an "indefinite stay" in San Juan to monitor the health of his 102-year old mother Mary Ejercito, who has been battling pneumonia and has been confined at the San Juan Medical Center since August.

Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, the Estrada family physician, said Mary Ejercito's condition had slightly improved and that she was more responsive to her visitors.

She even smiled when she saw Estrada in her bedside yesterday, according to family members.

Estrada said he was happy to see his mother's improved condition and thanked supporters for their prayers. *Kristine L. Alave*

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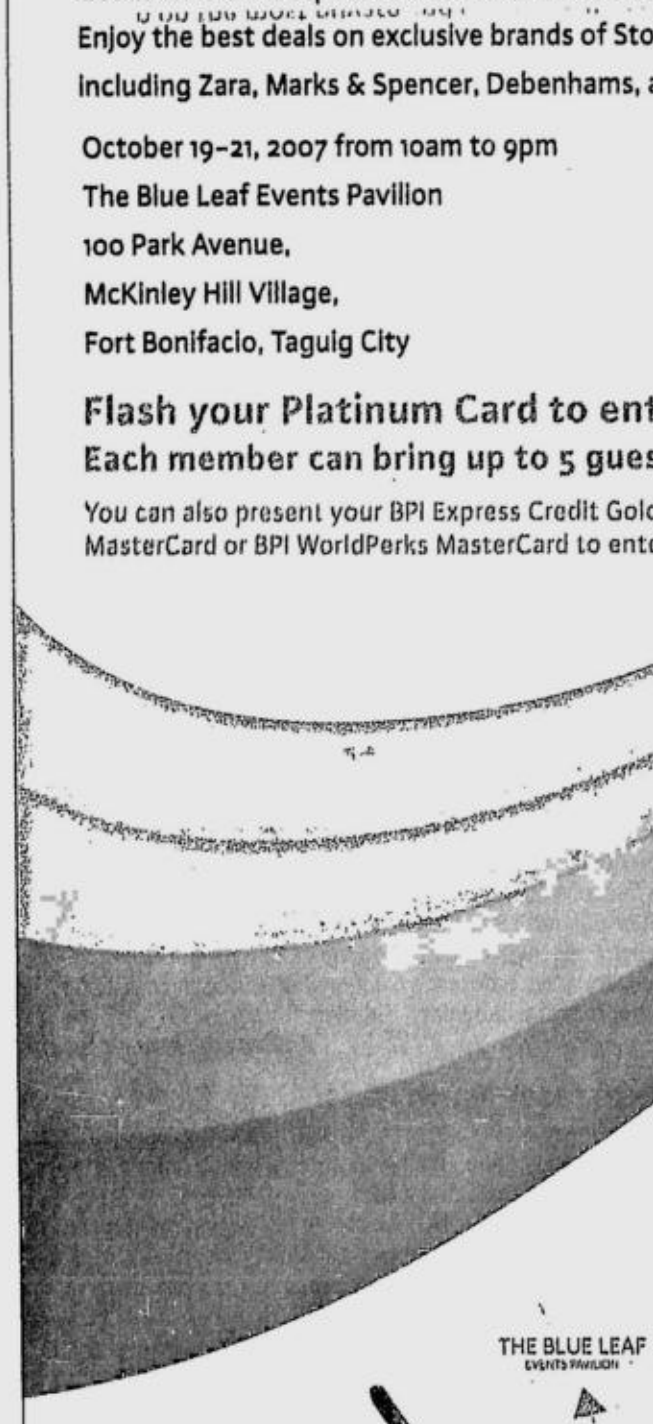


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**DID YOU KNOW**

IN 2002, 86.5 percent of Metro Manila children aged nine to 11 months had been immunized fully against measles. It was the second highest immunization rate among all the regions in the country. The highest was registered in the Southern Tagalog region (87.7 percent), while the lowest was in Western Visayas (59.3 percent).

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

# Lanao mayor's SUV stolen in Mandaluyong

## 3 men arrested for vehicle theft in Quezon City, Manila

**By Kristine L. Alave, Kenneth M. del Rosario and Tina G. Santos**

TWO ARMED MEN STOLE THE SPORTS UTILITY vehicle of Mayor Muaamar Maquiling of Munai, Lanao del Norte early morning yesterday in Mandaluyong City.

In his report, P01 Ryan Parinas said the incident happened at about 12:15 a.m. on Ideal Street Barangay Wack-Wack.

The incident happened two days after police arrested two suspected car thieves in Pampanga province and recovered a vehicle reported stolen before dawn Tuesday in Quezon City. Another man was apprehended yesterday in Manila for allegedly stealing a jeepney.

In the Mandaluyong incident, Maquiling told the police his driver, Anthony Garcia was parking his white Toyota Fortuner with plate number CAZ-777 outside the house of his friend in the subdivision when two men wearing bonnets and their faces covered appeared and pointed a gun at the driver. They threatened to shoot him if he did not hand over the car keys.

In a separate incident, Benigno

LANAO/ A22

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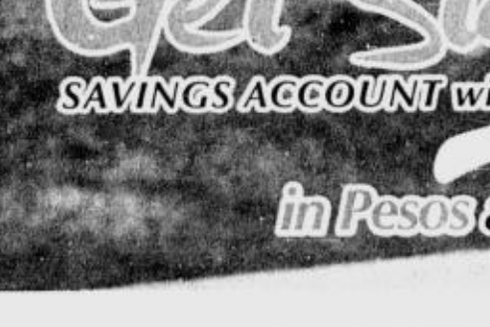

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# Transport terminal soon to rise in Taguig City

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE TAGUIG CITY GOVERNment is building a transport terminal to help ease traffic on the East Service Road.

"I believe this is a win-win project. Once finished, the Taguig Public Transport Dispatch Station will relieve traffic volume in the area apart from offering livelihood opportunities to residents," said Mayor Freddie Tiñga.

The terminal, a joint project between the city government and High Desert Inc. (HDI, will be constructed on a lot along Champaca Street, beside the Taguig District Hospital (TDH), which is also undergoing rehabilitation.

Tiñga said the terminal would be the designated loading and unloading station for public utility jeepneys and tricycles.

He added that the city government was also building a 3-meter-wide covered walkway for passengers. A portion of the East Service Road fronting the TDH would also be widened.

The HDI and the city government had a groundbreaking ceremony for the project last week.

Vice Mayor George Elias thanked the HDI for the project and said private sector partners like the company were the "life blood" of the city's growth and development.

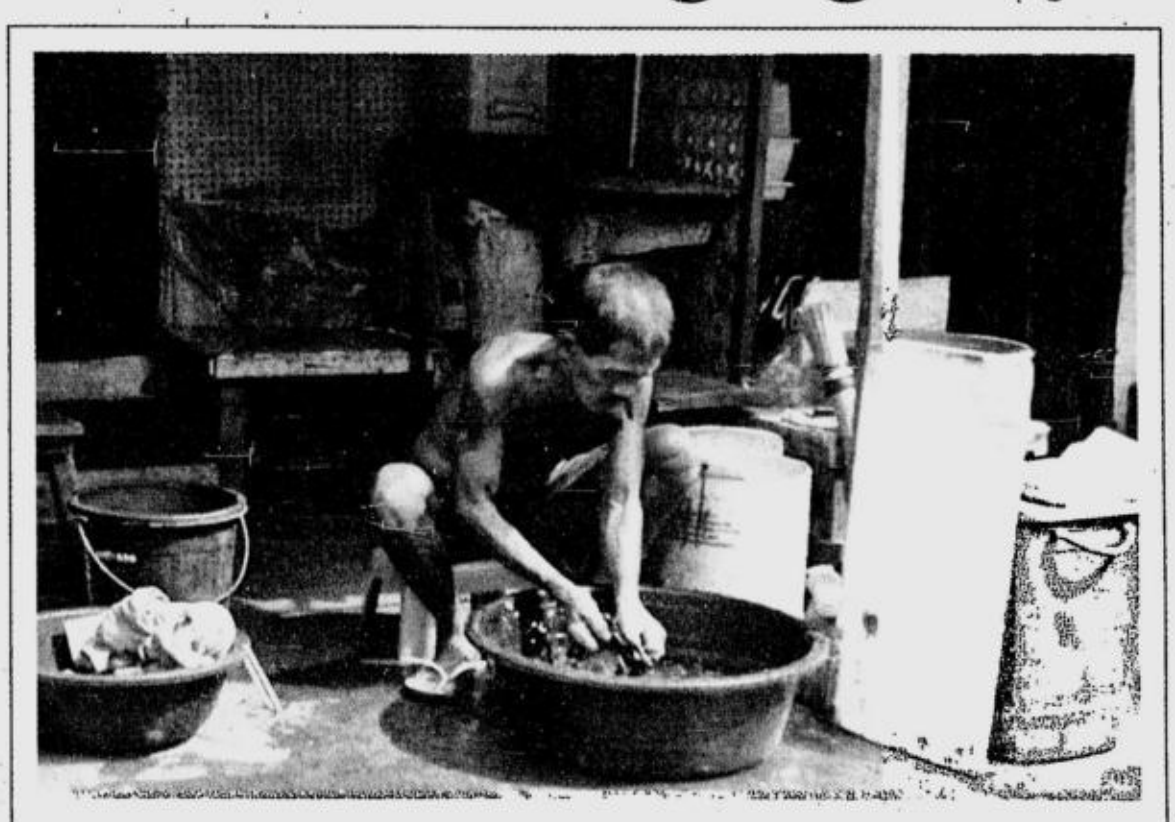
HDI executive director Brandon Chia said their company was merely fulfilling its social responsibility through worthwhile projects for the city.

"The private sector should take an active part in the welfare of Taguig. This is a sign we are ready to be stakeholders of the city," Chia said.

Tricycle and jeepney drivers welcomed the project.

"This is a blessing for us in the transport industry. We would like to thank the mayor and HDI for making the construction of this station possible," said Modesto Calauing, president of FTI-Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association.

The transport terminal is the first of five projects HDI plans to undertake in the city.



**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**
With no one in his household around to help, this man from Tondo in Manila does the laundry with no complaints.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

# Lawyer charged with bigamy for marrying 3 women

By Allison W. Lopez

A LAWYER WAS CHARGED YESterday with two counts of bigamy for marrying three women.

The complaint, which is now in the Manila Regional Trial Court, was filed by another man who was "not the offended party."

Assistant city prosecutor Melinda Diaz-Salcedo recommended the filing of a criminal case for bigamy against Bede Tabalingcos, who reportedly married Pilar Lozano in Cavite on July 15, 1980.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that Tabalingcos married in Manila Rowena Pinon on Sept. 28, 1987 and Mary Jane Paraiso on Sept. 7, 1989, although his first marriage had not been voided.

But Tabalingcos said Manuel Villatuya, a financial consultant who filed the case, was "not the offended party" and could not sue him.

Tabalingcos alleged Villatuya demanded P5.4 million allegedly for professional services. The lawyer claimed the complainant threatened to pursue "every legal (means) ... including perpetual disbarment" if he did not pay up.

Tabalingcos alleged that Villatuya, was motivated by malice, and had falsified his application for the NSO documents that showed he married three women.

The lawyer claimed the bigamy case was already "prescribed" because more than 15 years had passed since his first marriage in 1980.

But the NSO certifications, the prosecutor said, were based on "authentic and genuine public records" of Tabalingcos' three marriages. Thus, there was probable cause to charge the lawyer with two counts of bigamy.

In her resolution, the prosecutor said the claim that the case was prescribed because the discovery was made in 2005 was not valid. She cited Article 91 of the Revised Penal Code that stated that the prescription period began from the day the crime was discovered.

Bigamy, it was stressed, was a "public crime" that could be denounced not only by the person affected but even by a "spirited citizen" who found out about it.

The resolution said Pinon and Paraiso could file their own complaints against Tabalingco since it was not proven that they knew about the lawyer' s first marriage.

# Alleged police informant shot dead by 2 gunmen

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 44-YEAR-OLD MAN BELIEVED to be working as a police informant was gunned down Wednesday night by two men in Quezon City.

Manolito Salacot, of Riverside Street, in Barangay Commonwealth, died instantly after he was shot repeatedly in the body by two gunmen armed with .45 caliber pistols.

A Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Batasan Station 6 report showed that the incident happened at around 9:15 p.m., in front of the Botika ng Barangay at Unit 3, Riverside St. in Barangay Commonwealth.

Salacot was seated on a parked motorcycle when the suspects came up to him and began firing. The two fled shortly after shooting the victim.

Scene of the Crime Office (SOCO) personnel recovered five spent .45 caliber pistol shells and three .45 caliber pistol slugs at the site of the attack.

Investigators are still looking for the motive for the attack, although the victim's family claimed he had been getting death threats and had even escaped an attempt on his life in August.

# Lanao ...

From page A21

Alcantara, a resident of Kamuning, Quezon City reported the loss of his vehicle, a black Hyundai Starex van (XJS-752), to the Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping (QCPD-Ancar). He said it was stolen around 3:30 a.m. Tuesday while it was parked in front of his house.

All police stations were alerted about the case, including the Police Provincial Offices of Bulacan and Pampanga.

Agents of the QCPD and the Pampanga Police Office arrested Danilo Tizon, 40; and Raymond Garcia, 21, both residents of Gatbuca, Calumpit, Bulacan.

The suspects' black Hyundai Starex van (WPG-333) was stopped around 12 noon at a checkpoint along McArthur Highway in San Vicente.

The cops became suspicious when the men could not present documents proving ownership of the vehicle.

Investigation showed the van's chassis numbers matched that of Alcantara's stolen vehicle. Authorities also found out that the license plate WPG-333 belonged to another car.

In Manila yesterday, police arrested a 50-year-old man caught driving a jeepney he reportedly stole.

An investigation showed that Romeo Ramil of Perla St., Tondo, was arrested around 5 a.m. at the corner of Quiricada and Ipil Streets, Sta. Cruz following a complaint filed by Jonathan Supetran, 45.

The victim told police that he found his owner-type jeepney which he parked in front of his house on Bambang St. in Sta. Cruz already missing when he woke up yesterday morning.

Supetran said he immediately alerted the police about the incident.

A brief chase ensued between Ramil and policemen who chanced upon the suspect driving the victim's jeepney in Sta. Cruz.

Several keys of suspected stolen vehicles were also recovered from Ramil, police added.

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- Got stuck in potholes?
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- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# CA gives green light for filing of charges vs LPG dealers

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS cleared the way for the filing of charges against five officers of a corporation allegedly engaged in the illegal trading and underfilling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders.

The appellate court reinstated the prosecutors' findings against the five and reversed the 2006 resolutions of Justice Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

It found probable cause to file charges against Omni Gas Corporation officers Arnel, Marie Antonette and Alvin Ty; Jason Ong and Willy Dy for the refilling, without authority from gas companies, of eight LPG cylinders with the markings of Shellane, Gasul, Totalgaz and Superkalan Gaz.

There was also reason to charge them for underfilling one LPG cylinder, it added.

Pineda and Gonzales earlier directed the prosecutors to withdraw the charges in the Pasig regional trial court against the five Omni officers.

Pineda overturned the finding of the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor that Omni officers were liable for illegal trading and underfilling. Gonzalez dismissed the motion for reconsideration on Pineda's resolution.

National Bureau of Investigation agent Marvin de Jemil, the Petron Gasul Dealers Association and the Totalgaz Dealers Association questioned the actions of Pineda and Gonzalez before the appellate court.

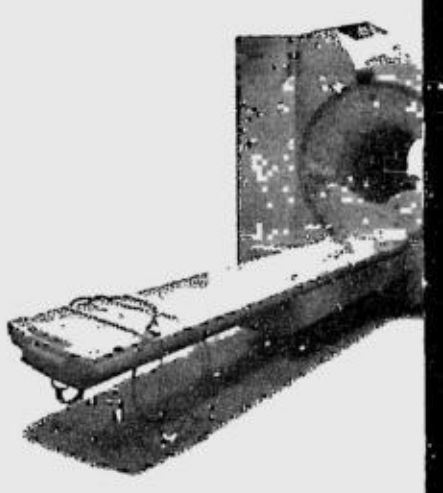
De Jemil conducted the surveillance and test buy at Omni's refilling plant on the complaints of LPG dealers' associations.

The Court of Appeals junked Pineda's finding that the cylinders were not proven to be owned by the gas companies and, even if they were, the consumer who had them had become the owner.

The court said markings on the cylinders clearly indicated the company that owned them.

It said only the contents were transferred to the consumer as the Department of Energy said. Omni had no written permission from the gas companies to refill the cylinders.

"The Department of Energy has promulgated rules and regulations and letter-opinions confirming that LPG cylinders are considered properties of the companies whose stamp markings appear on the LPG cylinders," the court said.



James on Health Partnership at The Medical City Orthopedic Multi-Specialty Center

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visited me at home twice! The service is excell

# Burma military junta says crackdown continues

RANGOON—THE MILITARY regime of Burma (Myanmar), which acknowledged detaining nearly 3,000 people during a recent crackdown on prodemocracy protesters, said Thursday that it seized large quantities of US-made explosives that a monk had been hiding in a Buddhist monastery.

Forty-eight blocks of TNT were found last week after investigations by authorities which led to U Kovida, a 23-year-old monk at Rangoon's Nan Oo monastery, the state-run New Light of Myanmar said. He reportedly hid the explosives in the monastery and then moved them to another location, where they were found.

Monks were at the forefront of mass antigovernment demonstrations, which the military brutally suppressed. The junta said Wednesday it detained nearly 3,000 people in connection with the protests, adding that hundreds remain in custody and that it is still hunting for others.

But the regime released the country's best known comedian, as well as a popular actor and his wife who had been taken into detention last month for openly supporting the antigovernment demonstrations.

Relatives and entertainment sources said Zarganar, famed for his satirical jibes against the government, and actor Kyaw Thu along with his wife were released Wednesday. Zarganar had been held since Sept. 26 while Kyaw Thu was arrested Sept. 10.

The newspaper report, which did not say if Kovida was arrested, said explosives were being smuggled into the country and people suspected of having links with the smuggling operation were being questioned.

London-based Amnesty International said Wednesday that an increasing number reports from Burma tell of deaths, torture, lack of food and medical treatment in overcrowded detention facilities across the country.

The UN's special envoy for Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, who was visiting Indonesia on a six-nation tour to press Asia to help resolve the Burma crisis, said Thursday that incentives could be offered to the Southeast Asian country in exchange for democratic reforms. *AP*

# Most promising malaria vaccine works in infants

THE WORLD'S MOST PROMISING malaria vaccine has been shown to work in infants less than a year old, the most vulnerable group, according to a study being published Thursday.

The study, being published in The Lancet, a British medical journal, was small, comprising only 214 babies in Mozambique, and intended to show only that the vaccine was safe at such young ages. But it also indicated that the risk of catching malaria was reduced by 65 percent after the full course of three shots.

"We're now a step closer to the realization of a vaccine that can protect African infants," said Dr. Pedro Alonso, the University of Barcelona professor who leads clinical trials of the GlaxoSmithKline vaccine.

If it passes much larger clinical trials set to start in seven countries next year, and if it is accepted by national regulatory agencies, it could be ready for distribution by 2012, said Dr. W. Ripley Ballou, Glaxo's vice president for international clinical trials.

In 2004, Alonso showed for the first time that the vaccine could protect children against infection or death. That study of 2,022 children aged 1 to 4 showed protection from infection about 45 percent of the time.

Such a relatively low level of protection would not be acceptable in a vaccine in the West, but malaria is a leading killer of African children, so even imperfect coverage is a major public health victory.

The vaccine, presently known as RTSS and tentatively brand-named Mosquirix, is made by fusing a bit of outer protein of the deadly falciparum strain of the malaria parasite with a bit of hepatitis B virus and a chemical booster—the latter two added to provoke a stronger immune reaction.

At least nine malaria vaccine candidates are in development, but Mosquirix is the furthest along. Glaxo has been refining it for 20 years and expects to spend up to $600 million on it. *NYT*

**DIVORCE DURING A PRESIDENCY**
France's President Nicolas Sarkozy and wife Cecilia in this June 10 photo. The couple have launched divorce proceedings, French media reported on Oct. 17. REUTERS

# Spending on computer tech to top trillion dollars

SAN FRANCISCO—SPENDING on computer technology will top a trillion dollars this year as the industry grows increasingly vital to national economies worldwide, according to a study by the technology market intelligence firm IDC released Thursday.

An analysis of 82 countries and regions found that information technology (IT) businesses—computer hardware, software and services—are major generators of jobs, companies and tax revenues.

"Growth of the IT sector is critical to the world economy and each of the countries we study," the International Data Corporation report concludes.

Global IT spending this year will equal 2.5 percent of the world's gross domestic product and that figure will rise to 2.75 percent by 2011, according to the IDC study, which was commissioned by US software giant Microsoft.

IT spending provides revenues for more than a million companies.

Those companies, in turn, employ 35.2 million people. Those employees and companies they work for will pay more than a trillion dollars in taxes in 2007.

Japan, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy and the United States account for two-thirds of IT spending worldwide and three-quarters of spending on packaged software.

Spending on computer hardware, software and services ranged from 3.6 percent of GDP in Singapore, Sweden and Denmark to less than half a percent in Pakistan and Nigeria.

The number of computer industry related jobs will climb by 7.1 million in the coming four years, according to the IDC study.

China is expected to add the most new jobs, with the second highest growth being in the United States.

Overall, job growth in IT will be triple that of the average worldwide increase in employment, the study concludes. *AFP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### China water pollution 'alarming'

MANILA—Water pollution may have reached alarming levels in China, after three decades of industrialization that lifted nearly half a billion people out of poverty, the Asian Development Bank said Thursday. The bank said it was giving Beijing a $500,000-grant to help the Asian giant design a system to manage water pollution. *AFP*

### US singer Teresa Brewer; 76

BREWER AP

NEW YORK—Singer Teresa Brewer, who topped the charts in the 1950s with such hits as "Till I Waltz Again with You" and performed with jazz legends Count Basie and Duke Ellington, has died. She was 76. Brewer died Wednesday at her home in New Rochelle, a New York City suburb, of a neuromuscular disease, family spokesperson Bill Munroe said. Her four daughters were at her bedside. Brewer had close to 40 songs that topped the charts, Munroe said, including "Dancin' with Someone," "Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall," "Ricochet" and "Let Me Go Lover." *AP*

### Taxes growing around the world

AFTER DIPPING briefly in the first years of this decade, taxes are growing again around the world, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Wednesday. Taxes in 2005 equaled the previous peak year of 2000, the organization said, when by one measure 36.2 percent of gross domestic product in 30 industrial countries, including the United States, went to taxes at all levels of government. The cost of government has risen by about 20 percent since 1975, when taxes accounted for less than 30 percent of the gross domestic product of the organization's member countries. *NYT*

### India, Russia to build new fighter jet

MOSCOW—India and Russia signed an agreement Thursday in Moscow for the joint production of a new multi-purpose fighter jet, Interfax news agency reported. *AFP*

# N. Korea may face famine after floods

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA MAY face a new famine next year as floods and bad weather aggravate its already chronic food shortages, a leading expert warned Thursday.

Floods and storms, followed by outbreaks of blight and damage by insects, deprived the impoverished nation of some 10 percent of its autumn harvest this year, said Kwon Tae-Jin, who is research director of the Korea Rural Economic Institute.

"North Korea is likely to face very serious food shortages next year and barring very generous help from abroad, we may see something like the 1995-98 famine," Kwon said.

That famine reportedly killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Kwon said the country needs at least 5.3 million tons of food to feed its 23 million population from now until next year's autumn harvest.

But its own food production is expected to come to only 3.9 million tons, leaving a shortfall of 1.4 million.

South Korea is the North's biggest aid provider, supplying it with 400,000 tons of food every year. Seoul is expected to increase this aid to 500,000 tons next year. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Bhutto returns home to Pakistan

## Ex-PM back after 8 years in exile, vows to restore democracy in homeland

KARACHI—FORMER PRIME minister Benazir Bhutto returned home to Pakistan on Thursday after eight years in exile, defying warnings of an assassination by al-Qaida and vowing to restore democracy in her homeland.

Before her plane left Dubai, carrying her back from exile for the second time in a long political career, at least a quarter-million people thronged the streets of Pakistan's biggest city Karachi to welcome her home.

She headed back to Pakistan after military president Pervez Musharraf agreed to drop corruption charges against her, hoping her immense popularity can help him cling to power in the face of mounting popular anger over his rule.

"My journey back home marks the beginning of a march towards a better future for Pakistan," the 54-year-old Bhutto, the first woman ever to lead an Islamic nation, said before boarding the plane.

"I am for the poor. I am their leader and I live for them and I will die for them," she said, dressed in a bright green traditional tunic. "My journey reflects the aspiration of the 160 million people of Pakistan."

Bhutto, who has repeatedly angered Muslim hardliners with harsh criticism of Islamic extremists, again shrugged off police warnings she would be targeted for assassination by al-Qaida or Taliban militants on Pakistani soil.

"I don't want to think of the risk," said the two-time prime minister, whose brother was shot dead by suspected Pakistan intelligence agents and whose father was hanged in 1979 by military dictator Zia ul-Haq.

BHUTTO pauses at her house in Dubai as a relative places the Muslim holy Koran on her head before she leaves for the airport to depart for Karachi on Oct. 18. AFP

"I want to think of the opportunity for my people," she said.

Bhutto, who remained head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) during her exile, left Dubai accompanied by dozens of supporters wearing scarves in the PPP colors of red, black and green.

More than 20,000 police and troops, backed up by bomb squads with sniffer dogs, patrolled the route of her planned homecoming parade from the airport to the imposing mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father.

Bhutto will also be protected by bullet-proof screens as she rides in a specially modified shipping container through the streets of Karachi, which has been decked out with colossal billboard portraits of her.

Pakistani police said more than 250,000 people had jammed the streets awaiting her return. Her loyalists put the crowd at more than one million.

Bhutto has vowed to contest general elections and win a third term in power as she returns to a Pakistan in the throes of political turmoil, as Musharraf has seen his popularity crash in just the past few months.

The military leader's bungled attempt to sack the head of the Supreme Court—a move the Court itself later ruled was unconstitutional—set off months of angry street demonstrations.

Seeing his tight grip on power start to loosen, Musharraf turned to Bhutto to bolster his position, pledging to step down as head of the Army by Nov. 15 after winning reelection by parliament earlier in October.

The amnesty was seen as a prelude to power-sharing, clearing the way for her to seek a third term as prime minister in general elections expected by January while he stays on as president.

The Supreme Court has since ruled, however, that it must validate his election win—after hearing a raft of legal challenges over Musharraf's legal right to have stood for reelection.

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, has become a pivotal ally in the US-led "war on terror" and is seen as a bulwark against Taliban and al-Qaida extremism in Pakistan's tribal areas on the Afghan border. *AFP*

PRESIDENT Bush, left, chats with the Dalai Lama on Oct. 17, 2007, in the Capitol Rotunda on Capitol Hill in Washington. AP

## *Bush defies China in public meeting with Dalai Lama*

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush Wednesday called for an end to "religious repression" in China as he defiantly became the first US leader to appear in public with the Dalai Lama.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader accepted the Congressional Gold Medal, lawmakers' highest civilian honor, in a formal ceremony in the US Capitol's ornate Rotunda—a move certain to further enrage leaders in Beijing.

Bush praised the 72-year-old Buddhist icon for keeping the "flame" of Tibet's people alive, and called on Beijing to open political talks with him about the region's future.

"They will find this good man to be a man of peace and reconciliation," Bush said in the decorous room beneath the soaring dome of the US Capitol building, watched by lawmakers, Tibetan exiles and Buddhist monks.

"Americans cannot look to the plight of the religiously oppressed and close our eyes or turn away," Bush said.

"That is why I will continue to urge the leaders of China to welcome the Dalai Lama to China," said the president, in a ceremony broadcast live to China by radio. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Nadal tops** Baghdatis in Masters /A27

SPORTS

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*Editor* **Teddyvic S. Melendres** *Assistant Editor* **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

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■ **US Open:** RP aces cross paths /A28

# Gins, Bulls clash; Devance shows stuff

**DEFENDING CHAMPION BARANGAY GINEBRA GETS GOING against Red Bull even as the league's top rookie pick, Joe Devance, shows his stuff for Welcoat today in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.**

**GAMES TODAY**
*(Cuneta Astrodome)*
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs Coca-Cola
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs Ginebra

Nursing a shoulder injury, Mark Caguioa will miss Ginebra's 7:20 p.m. clash with the Bulls, along with Rafi Reavis, who has yet to recover from a similar ailment.

But the Gin Kings hope to put up a tough stand against the Bulls, who lost two key players—former Ateneo teammates Enrico Villanueva and Larry Fonacier—to San Miguel Beer, now known as Magnolia, last season.

Devance, the 6-foot-7 former University of Texas-El Paso hotshot, tries to sustain his sharp pre-season form when the Welcoat Dragons tangle with the Coca-Cola Tigers earlier at 4:35 p.m.

"We have a strong starting frontline but the question is who will replace them from the bench," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria, whose Dragons won only seven of 36 games last season as a rookie squad.

Devance, who averaged 30-plus points per game for the Dragons during the pre-season tournament, 6-7 sophomore Jay-R Reyes and veteran power forward Nic Belasco give the Dragons an imposing defensive wall in the paint.

Aside from the menacing trio, Welcoat has to draw strong games from Rob Wainwright, Jojo Tangkay, Denver Lopez, Jireh Ibanez and rookie Ryan Arana to be competitive.

The Tigers, who finished just a notch above the Dragons last season, also tinkered with a roster bannered by Kenneth Duremdes, John Arigo, Ali Peek and Alex Cabagnot.

After gaining Mark Isip and Cesar Catli from Sta. Lucia Realty, the Tigers tapped Mark Telan and drafted amateur standout Ronjay Buenafe to enhance their firepower.

Red Bull hopes to exploit the absence of Caguioa, who was among the leading scorers for the San Miguel-Philippine team in the last Asia Fiba championship, and Reavis.

"It will be good to do battle with them when they're not yet complete, because when they are, it will be extremely tough," said Red Bull's Mick Pennisi.

"Our defense should always hold up," added the 6-foot-9 banger. "It is only through defense that we could win since we don't have that many offensive weapons now as before."

*June Navarro*

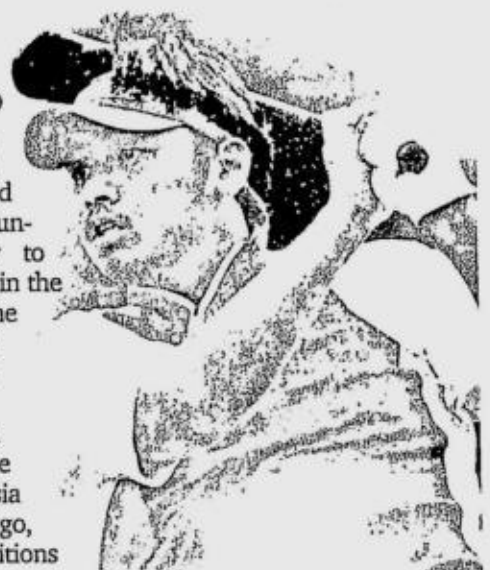
# Murakami grabs front after a 69

**By Musong R. Castillo**

LIPA CITY—ARTEMIO Murakami was in control on a day howling winds bowled the field over, shooting a three-under-par 69 yesterday to wrest the halfway lead in the Philippine stop of the Asean Tour at the tough Mount Malaray-at course here.

The 24-year-old Asian Tour winner of the Johor Open in Malaysia just two months ago, bucked the tough conditions to can five birdies against two bogeys for a 140 total and a one-stroke lead over longshot Orlan Sumcad.

MURAKAMI/ A26



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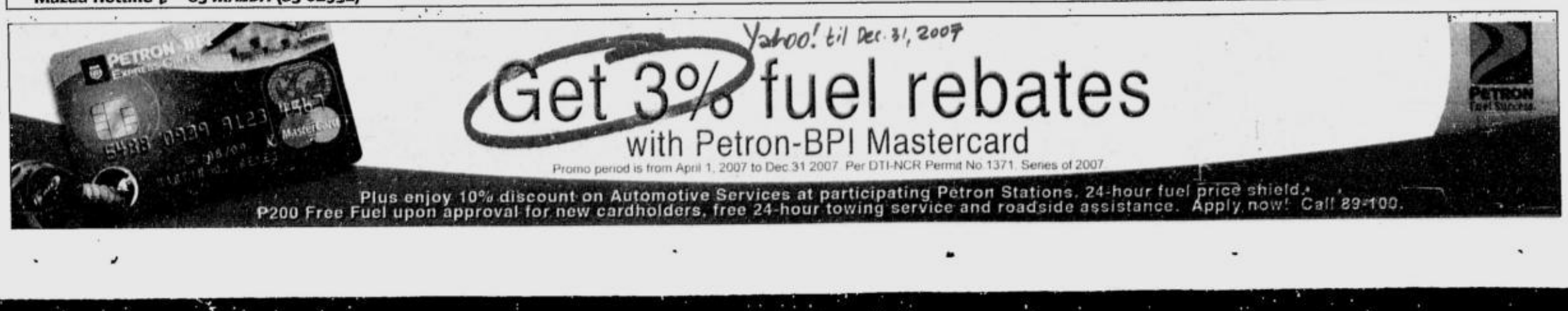


# Manilans sustain athletics show, put away 19 golds

By June Navarro

TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES FROM FAR EASTERN University carried the fight for Manila in its bid to wrest the overall lead from Quezon City yesterday in the National Capital Region qualifying games of the Philippine Olympic Festival at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Jerome Oclaret and Christopher Ulboc delivered five of the 19 athletics gold medals Manila secured in an effort to keep up with Quezon City, which has 32 golds mainly due to its strength in the pool.

The 17-year-old Ulboc became the athletics' first triple gold winner by ruling the 10,000 meters yesterday after earlier impressive triumphs in the 5,000 and 3,000 steeplechase on Wednesday.

"These medals will serve as inspirations to improve my skills," said Ulboc, a fan of Filipino long-distance runner Eduardo Buenavista, who timed 35 minutes and 55 seconds in the 10,000.

Oclaret, a shotput gold medalist in the 2007 Palarong Pambansa, followed up his victory in the same event on Wednesday by clinching the gold in the discus throw with a hurl of 38.27 meters.

Ulboc's childhood friend, the 18-year-old Oclaret, outclassed Tagig's Rongie Abing, who threw 31.94 meters, and Manila teammate Regie Abraham (24.45) in the five-day competitions.

"I'm confident because I always train hard," said Oclaret, a neighbor of Ulboc in Barangay 2, Tangub, Misamis Occidental. Both were classmates at the Tangub City National High School before scouts brought them to FEU this year.

Manila's other victories came from Romnick Herida and Ruffa Bargola (200m), Kenneth Grace Ferrera (javelin) and Charito Bajuyo (high jump) which boosted its golden tally to 24.

Pasig has 20 gold medals for third place, all of them from swimming where Gabriel Castelo shone by posting 12 victories.

Manila also showed its teeth in chess through Jan Jodilyn and Jude Emil Fronda after two rounds.

Jodilyn downed Vengielyn Bautista of Marikina City to share the Under-14 girls' lead with Cherry Ann Mejia of Taguig and Jean Karen Enriquez of Marikina while Jude Emil zapped Ranilo Gil Biag of Manila for joint first with Jesus Alfonso Datu of Taguig in the Under-20 boys.

# Hapee open to loaning Norwood to SEAG squad

By Jasmine W. Payo

**HAPEE TOOTHPASTE IS OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LOANING FIL-AM sensation Gabe Norwood to the all-amateur Philippine team playing in the Southeast Asian Games this December in Thailand.**

Norwood arrived on Wednesday night to suit up for the Sparklers in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup, which fires off tomorrow with a doubleheader at The Arena in San Juan.

**GAMES SATURDAY**
**(*The Arena, San Juan*)**
1 p.m.—Opening Rites
2 p.m.—Pharex vs San Mig Coffee
4 p.m.—Bacchus vs Toyota Balintawak

"There's the interest of the team, but there's the interest of the Philippines," Cecilio Pedro, Hapee team owner and newly elected PBL chair, said during the league's launch yesterday.

"We want to make sure that we win the gold in the SEA Games."

"It's a higher calling," added PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad. "It's beyond the PBL, it's about the RP team."

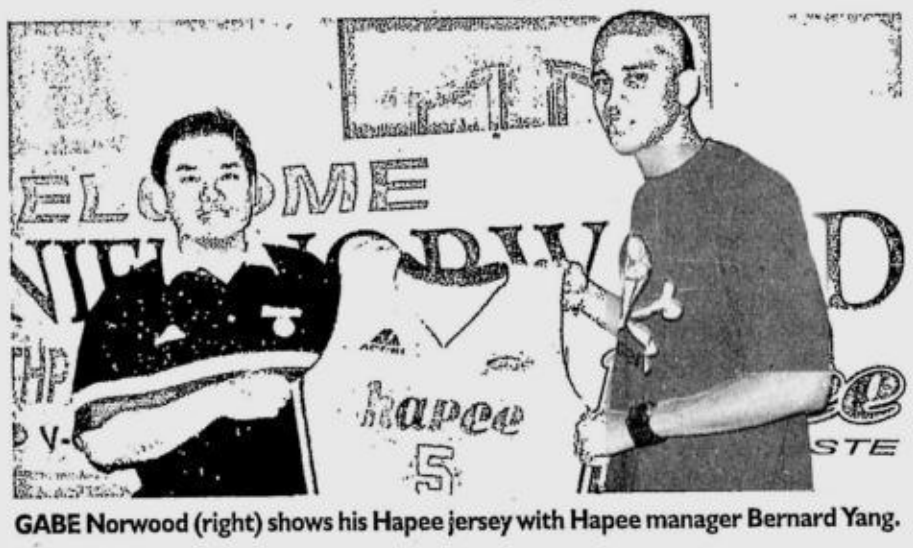
Norwood, the PBL's top rookie pick, trained at Penn State University in Pennsylvania after suiting up for the all-pro national squad in the Fiba Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan, last July.

"I'll play whatever position my coach will tell me," said Norwood.

Hapee aims for a turnaround this year with Norwood—a former starter for the US NCAA Final Four squad George Mason University.

"I saw the sincerity of Hapee management in getting me, that's why I decided to come back," the 6-foot-5 guard said.

Hapee will slug it out in the league with three-time champion Harbour-Centre, Toyota Balintawak, San Mig Coffee, Bacchus Energy Drink, Mail and More and newcomer Pharex.


GABE Norwood (right) shows his Hapee jersey with Hapee manager Bernard Yang.

The Harbour-RP squad, bannered by PBL Most Valuable Player Jason Castro and reigning UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz, will also compete as a guest squad.

The opening ceremony will unfold at 1 p.m. tomorrow with San Juan City Mayor JV Ejercito gracing the affair.

# Murakami grabs front after a 69

From page A25

Sumcad, a burly 34-year-old who calls this windswept course home, was the only other player in the field after Murakami to better par for two straight days, his 71 lifting him past first-round leader Nakul Vichittryuthasastr of Thailand at 141.

Nakul wasn't as precise as he was with a 68 on Wednesday, firing a 74 for 142.

Marciano Pucay, who shot a level 72, and Ramil Bisera, who churned out a 69—one of four for the day—and shared fourth at 143.

"It was a grind out there," Murakami, a former Philippine amateur champion picked by the eminent Frankie Miñoza as a future professional star. "The course played so tough today I couldn't believe I shot a 69."

Aside from forcing wayward shots, the winds dried up the fairways and greens, resulting in unpredictable bounces.

Edwin Estrera, the other half of the National Pro-Am's champion team early this year, rose from an 11-shot swing with an 84 for 157 but still missed the halfway cut by a shot.

Fourteen other Filipinos, including former RP Open winner Mario Manubay (77-161) and senior campaigner Caloy Nival (80-162), also won't be around for the weekend, along with 10 foreigners.

Only six players cracked par and five more matched it for the day with long-hitting Rey Pagunsan checking in with a 69 to vault from the middle of the pack and into a tie for sixth at 144 along with amateur Ferdie Aunzo (73), Danny Zarate (75), Thai Namchok Tantipokhakul (71) and Tony Lascuña (72).

Another 69 came from veteran Erwin Estrera, who rallied from an 82 Wednesday.

Murakami opened and closed his front nine with birdies after a bogey on the third and a birdie on No. 6 for 34.

Amateur hotshot Jay Bayron shot a 72 for 145 while former RP Open winner Cassius Casas, a sight on the fairways because of his long hair and all-pink outfit, salvaged a 74 for 147 like Jherome Delariarte (76).

**The top 20 scores:**
140—A. Murakami 71-69; 141—O. Sumcad 70-71; 142—N. Vichittryuthasastr (Tha) 68-74; 143—M. Pucay 71-72, R. Bisera 74-69; 144—R. Pagunsan 75-69, F. Aunzo (A) 71-73, D. Zarate 69-75, N. Tantipokhakul (Tha) 73-71, A. Lascuna 72-72; 145—M. Sasidaran (Mal) 73-72, R. Jamnong (Tha) 70-75, J. Bayron (A) 73-72; 146—J. Rates 73-73, C. La'O 72-74, 147—C. Casas 73-74, R. Sangil (A) 72-75, M. Bibat (A) 75-72, L. Dacudao 72-75, J. Delariarte 71-76, A. Fernando (A) 73-74.

# Adamson stakes V-League lead vs San Sebastian today

ADAMSON GETS ITS FIRST REAL TEST when it meets San Sebastian today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

With two wins in as many games, the Lady Falcons try to solidify their hold of the lead when they tangle with the Lady Stags, the first conference runners-up, at 3 p.m.

In the 5 p.m. second game, Letran and Far Eastern clash in a battle of winless squads.

Adamson coach Minerva Pante said her team's true worth won't be known until they have met the league heavyweights.

"We have to always play well and defend well," said Pante after notching their second win Tuesday at the expense of Lyceum.

The Lady Falcons are up against the triple NCAA champion, which is aching to win its first V-League title after consecutive runner-up finishes.

**GAMES TODAY**
**(*The Arena, San Juan*)**
3 p.m. Adamson vs San Sebastian
5 p.m. Letran vs FEU

The Lady Stags placed second to the La Salle Lady Archers last year and to the Santo Tomas Tigresses in the first conference.

"We hope to prove that we're not just runner-up material this time," said SSC coach Roger Gorayeb, whose intact squad includes Thai import Jaroensri Bualee.

Guest player Neriza Bautista has been doing a good job leading Adamson, which lost in the 2005 finals to La Salle.

The six-foot-one Bautista is averaging 13 points and blends well with mainstays Jacqueline So, Angela Benting, Rissa Jane Laguilles, Jill Gustilo and Janet Serafica.

*Romina S. Austria*

# Milo run swings to Laoag

ABOUT 10,000 RUNNERS ARE EXPECTED to answer the starting gun when the 31st National Milo Marathon begins its Northern Luzon swing this Sunday with the Laoag City elimination leg.

The bulk of the runners are entered in the 3K, 5K and 21K races, according to Mary Geraldine O. Paderon of the organizing Ilocos Norte Sports Development Council.

Former Project Gintong Alay director and now Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon will fire the starting gun for the centerpiece 21K run at 6 a.m at the Marcos Stadium. Laoag City Mayor Michael V. Fariñas will start the 5K fun run and Paderon the 3K kiddie run.

Joining the 5K and 3K run are Laoag Bishop Sergio Utleg, Araceli Pastor and Dr. Cecilia Aribuabo of DepEd of Ilocos Norte and Laoag City.

At stake is a total cash purse worth P159,600 to the winners with the top three runners in the men's and women's 21K making it to the grand finals on Nov. 18 in Metro Manila.

The 21K men's and women's champions will each pocket P10,000 while the second and third placers will receive P6,000 and P4,000, respectively.

Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong is advising all participants to be at the starting area at 5 a.m. for check-in and briefing. The race starts at 6 a.m.

## World poker prelims tomorrow

PACIFIC POKER PALACE WILL STAGE TOMORrow the first of two final preliminaries to the World Poker Championship slated Oct. 27 and 28 at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

The P100,000 Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament allows multiple re-buys for P500 each, according to PPP's Ben dela Cruz. Entry fee is P100.

The last preliminary tournament with another P100,000 prize is on Thursday.

Dela Cruz said at least $35,000 will be pocketed by the winner of the world championship, a competition organized by the PPP, a local firm without a partner international organization. For inquiries, call 0917-8603829 or 0916-4177780.

## Stag Championship at PCC

THE 110K NATIONAL STAG CHAMPIONSHIP 6-stag derby gets under way at 5 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with the elite roster of participants expected to field their stag winners.

The highest scorer after six fights wins the championship, according to pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

Among those gearing up for the big showdown are Gerry Ramos, the Firefly group, Primallion Brothers, Gov. Ito Ynares, Patrick Antonio, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Boy Velez, Tony Trebol, Arman Santos, Ricky Reyes/Boy Marzo and Jun Topacio.

SPORTSWATCH

## NCA Stag Nat'l Derby today

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST STAGS CLASH TODAY in the National Cockers' Association's (NCA) Stag National Championship Derby at the world-class Pasay City Cockpit.

Only stags banded by groups accredited in the NCA derby will be leg-banded in the presence of Jerry Ramos, Eric dela Rosa and the Firefly group.

Among those fielding their aces are Gov. Ito Ynares, Boyet Joson, Mayor Ellan Nagaño, Manny and Arman Santos, Rey Briones, Mario Villamor, Manny Pacquiao, Rudy Albano, Efren Canlas, Patrick Antonio, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, T. Sevilla, Edwin Santos and Joey and Buboy delos Santos.

## Cainta stagfest gets under way

MORE THAN 90 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN THE United Backyard Breeders Association (Ubba) Stagwars 4-Stag Derby starting at 1 p.m. today at the Cainta Coliseum.

Founded in 2003, the group has 50 members.

Meanwhile, the venue's Mountain Bike Hackfight Festival gets going this Sunday with the first 20 winners getting a mountain bike each and the remaining winners, P1,000 each.

For inquiries, call 655-3334 or 0918-9001411.

# RP-Cebuana cagebelles ambush Malaysians

CRACK FIL-AM VICKY BRICK scored on a side jumper with three seconds left to power Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier past Malaysia, 67-65, and to a sweep of the elimination round last night in the Southeast Asia Basketball (Seaba) Championship in Phuket, Thailand.

It was the fourth straight win for the Filipinos, who set up a semifinal clash with the Indonesians (1-3) today. The other semis encounter pits the Malaysians (2-2) against the Thais (3-1).

The SEA Games-bound Filipinos also beat the Indonesians, 70-54; the Thais, 80-76, and the Singaporeans, 78-59.

# PSC forms own medical contingent over PCSM

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee has revamped its medical team going to the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December in the aftermath of its row with the Philippine Sports Commission regarding the athletes' diet and nutrition.

The Olympic body's executive board last Wednesday decided to hire Dr. Sonny Odulio of the Philippine Orthopedic Institute as the new head of the medical commission.

Odulio is a sports orthopedic surgeon connected with top hospitals in the country, according to POC deputy secretary general Mark Joseph.

The POC also tapped Dr. Martin Camara to take care of alternative sports medicine, and chefs from the College of St. Benilde, who will take care of food and nutrition in Thailand.

They will take over from the PSC medical arm, the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine headed by Dr. Jose Raul Canlas.

*Marc Anthony Reyes*

# Don Enrique, MVCH advance

DON ENRIQUE HEIGHTS AND Monte Vista-Cinco Hermanos (MVCH) advanced to next month's Grand Intervillage Championship after topping the North qualifying tournament Tuesday at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club.

Don Enrique Heights posted a two-round total of 602 points to post a runaway win over MVCH, which took the second slot by edging Loyola Grand Villas, 569-563.

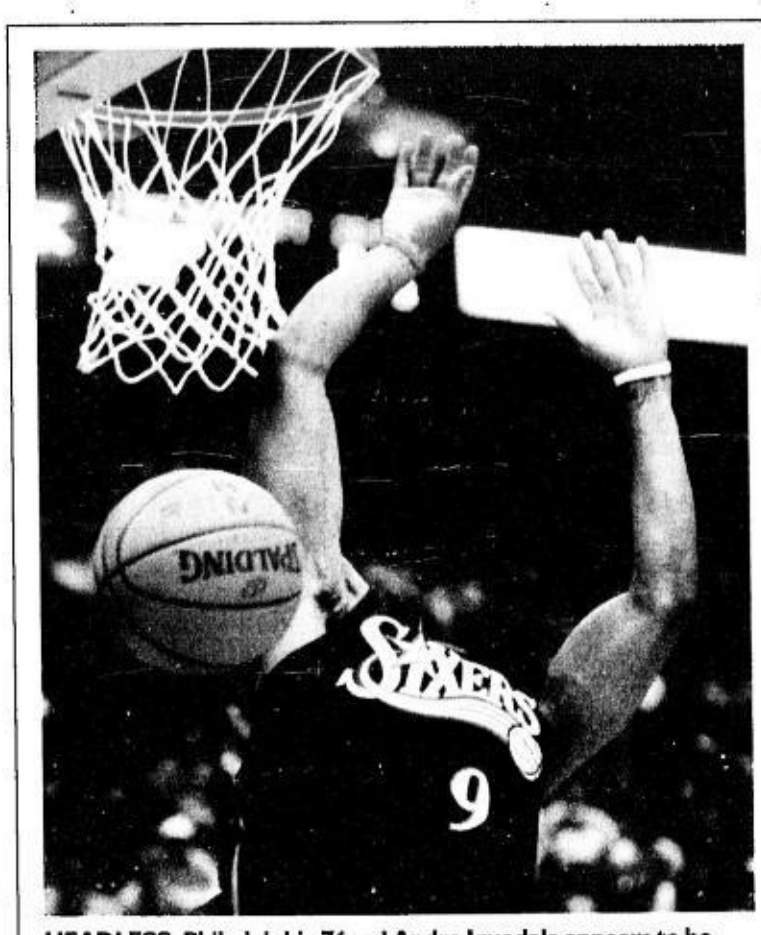
Casa Verde finished last with 419 points.

Don Enrique had five players scoring 39 each—Jose "Ato" Santos Jr., Lito Garcia, Adm. Antonio Sibayan, Romeo Ignacio and Rep. Sandy Urro. The other scorers were Rene Mabugat (38), Billy Sta. Maria (36) and Celestino Baldonado (35).

MVCH leaned on Ding Garcia (39), Fel Ramoy (38), Efren Estrada (38), Celso Montalla (37), Feliciano Belizario (36), Martin Limgenco (35), Roger Manjares (34) and Dante Gozum (33).

Marty Ilagan of LGV ruled Group 1 with 67 while Jose Santos (55) of DEH topped Group 3. The Group 4 title went to Fred Nasser (46) of Casa Verde while DEH's Rene Mabugat (36) ruled Group 5.

Meanwhile, Alison Vega of LGV made a hole-in-one on the eighth hole to win a MyPhone T22 unit.



**HEADLESS: Philadelphia 76ers' Andre Iguodala appears to be headless after being fouled by a Utah Jazz player during an NBA preseason game won by the Jazz, 101-93. Meanwhile, the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 90-86, in Shanghai.** AP

# Cabrera snatches Grand Slam title

HAMILTON, BERMUDA—US Open winner Angel Cabrera forced a playoff with an 18th-hole eagle, then birdied the third extra hole Wednesday to beat Irishman Padraig Harrington and capture the PGA Grand Slam of Golf.

The 38-year-old Argentine fired his second straight 2-under par 68 at the four-man, 36-hole showdown event to match Harrington on four-under 136 before taking the $1.35 million matchup involving 2007 major winners. *AFP*

# Nadal tops Baghdatis in Masters

**MADRID—WORLD NUMBER two Rafael Nadal recovered from an unsteady start to overpower Marcos Baghdatis, 6-4, 6-4, in the Madrid Masters on Wednesday and set up a mouth-watering last-16 clash against Andy Murray.**

Nadal, playing his first competitive match since losing to fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the US Open fourth round on Sept. 4, struggled to find his rhythm in the opening games, but eventually settled on the ultra-fast hard court.

The Spaniard got the measure of a fading Baghdatis in the second set, making the crucial break in the ninth game to claim victory at the scene of his triumph in 2005.

"I made some mistakes at the start and my serve was average, but I'm not unhappy," Nadal told a news conference.

Third seed Novak Djokovic had to shake off a determined challenge from unseeded Fernando Verdasco to win, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3.

The 20-year-old, who lies behind Nadal and Roger Federer in the rankings, will face Juan Carlos Ferrero in the last 16 after the Spaniard got the better of compatriot Carlos Moya, 7-6, 6-4, in a duel between former world number ones.

Eight seeds including Masters Cup hopefuls Tommy Robredo, James Blake, David Ferrer, Ivan Ljubicic and Richard Gasquet tumbled out of the tilt on Wednesday, denting their chances of making the event in Shanghai.

Robredo fell victim to Argentine Juan Martin del Potro who defeated the eighth seed, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3. Earlier, wildcard Feliciano Lopez delivered a blow to Ferrer's hopes of qualifying with an unexpected 7-6, 7-5 win. *Reuters*

# Indians go for the kill versus Red Sox

CLEVELAND, OHIO—JOSH BECKett carries Boston Red Sox World Series hopes to the mound on Thursday for a must-win Game Five against the Cleveland Indians and they could not be in safer hands.

Trailing the Cleveland Indians, 3-1, in their best-of-seven American League Championship Series and teetering on the brink of elimination, the Red Sox's Cy Young candidate is all that stands between the Indians and a return to the World Series.

The Major League's only 20-game winner this season, Beckett has carried his form over into the playoffs and will need to weave more Fall magic if the Red Sox are to take the series back to Fenway Park for Games Six and Seven.

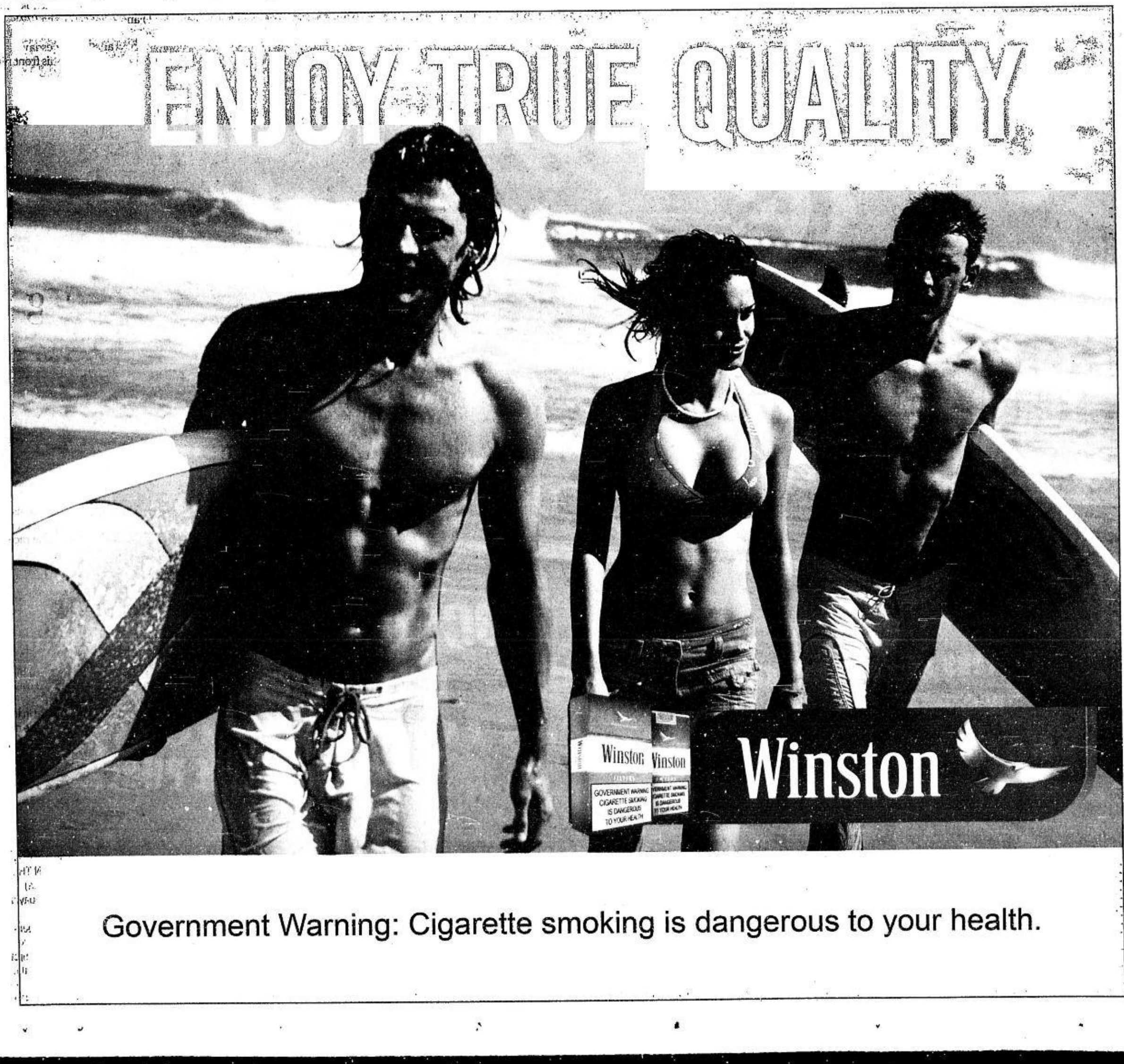
"He (Beckett) has been the guy we've had to lean on," Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek told reporters.

"Mr October", is the highest praise that can be given a player in the postseason and Beckett is already recognized as one of the sport's clutch money players.

Being placed in must-win situations is nothing new for Beckett.

Trailing the Chicago Cubs 3-1 in the 2003 National League Championship Series, the Florida Marlins handed Beckett the ball in Game Five and he responded with a complete game two-hitter. *Reuters*

**BECKETT** AP

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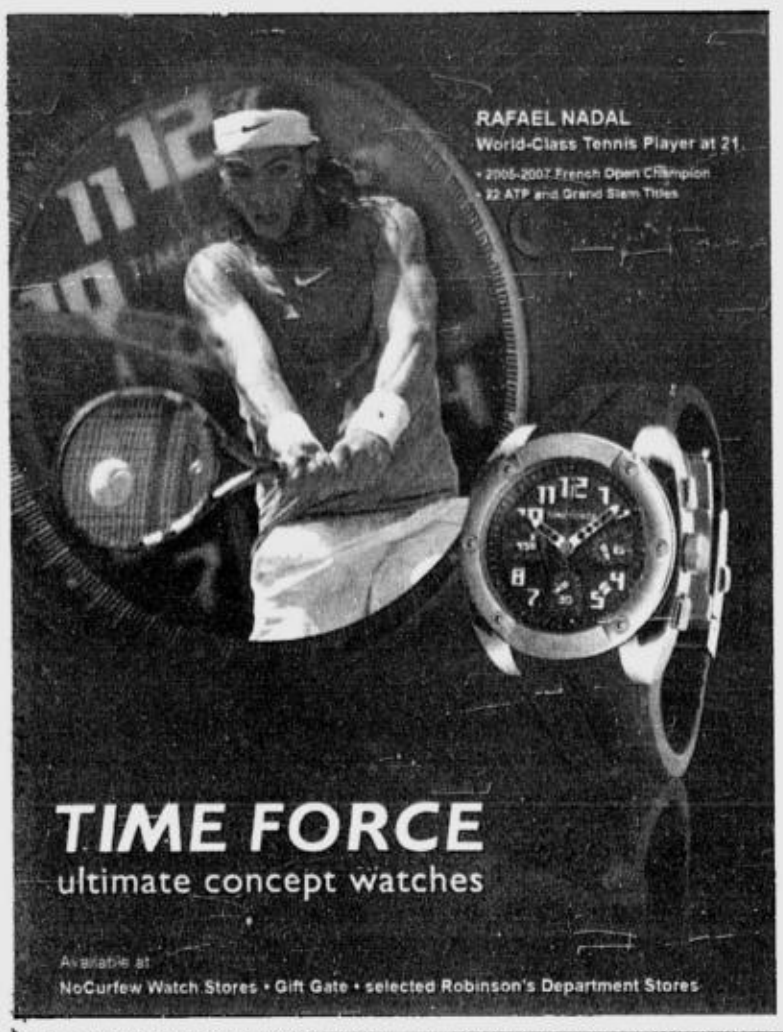





SPORTS

BATA Reyes next faces compatriot Ronnie Alcano.

# RP aces clash in US Open

**THE HEAVYWEIGHTS OF PHILIPPINE billiards continued to smother the opposition but some of them are certain to fall in the fourth round of the 32nd US Open at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.**

Former world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and double world titlist Ronnie Alcano easily disposed of their foes Thursday night. Jose "Amang" Parica and Francisco "Django" Bustamante turned back their game but overmatched rivals, and Warren Kiamco and Lee Vann Corteza survived dangerous opponents.

For cruising to their third straight wins, they found themselves on a collision course in the event that stakes a $50,000 winner's purse.

The luck of the draw has Reyes and Alcano, Parica and Bustamante and Corteza and Kiamco slugging it out in the fourth round.

Reyes routed Alessandro Torrenti, 11-3, while Alcano was flawless in his 11-0 thrashing of Chris Bartrum.

Parica showed glimpses of his old deadly form in his 11-5 conquest of Derek Leonard while Bustamante subdued Joel Gray, 11-8.

Corteza stunned European No. 1 Niels Feijen, 11-8, while Kiamco nipped Dan Louie, 11-9.

Dennis Orcollo and last year's runner-up Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat also shone.

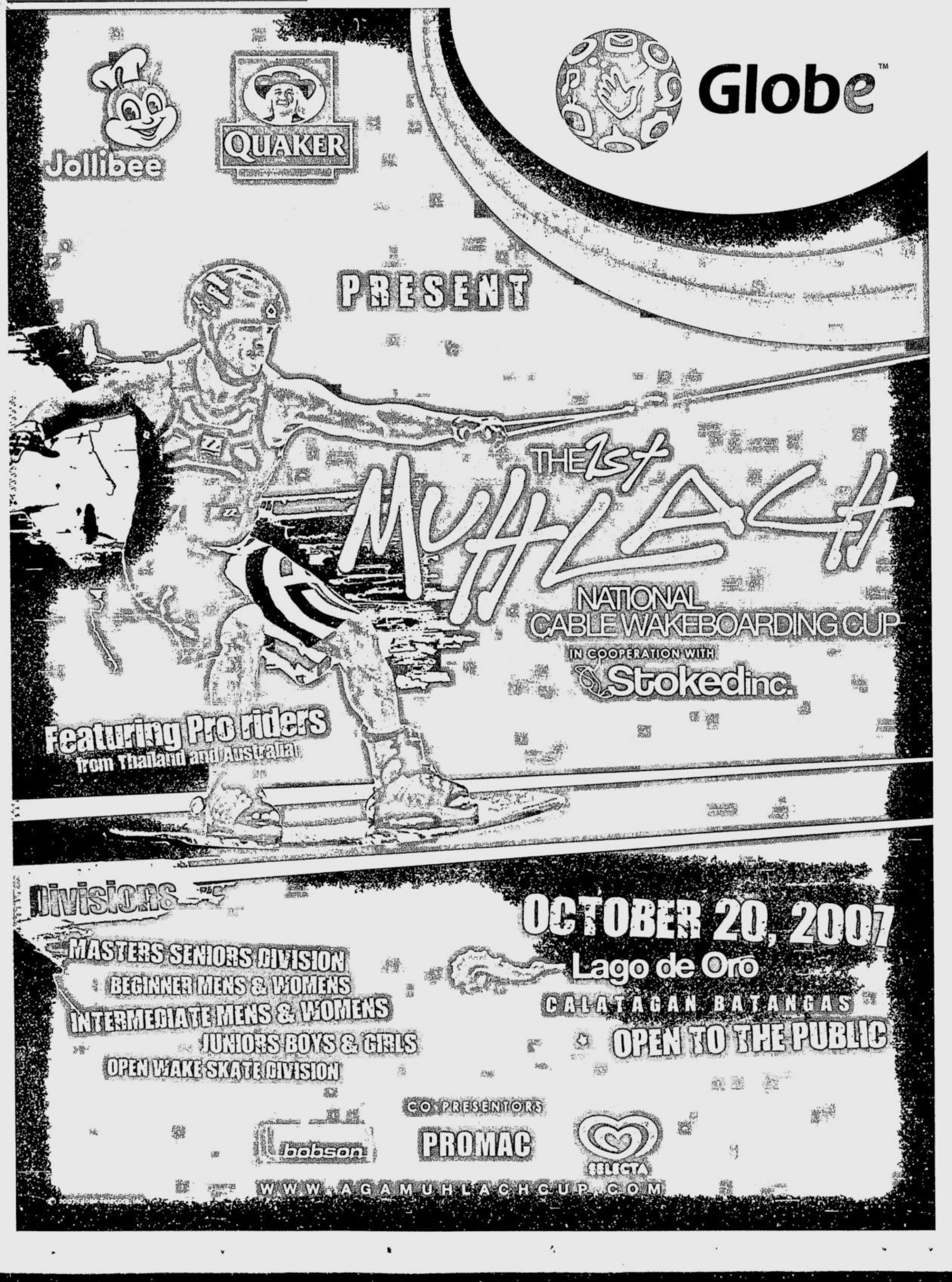
Orcollo bested David Hunt, 11-9, while Luat beat Ceri Worts, 11-7. Orcollo will next face Tony Crosby, 11-8 winner over Brian Parks while Luat meets James Walden, who ambushed defending champion John Schmidt, 11-1.

An Orcollo-Luat clash is also possible in the fifth round if they hurdle their next matches.

But there were also heartaches for the Filipinos among the 211-man field.

Alex Pagulayan, the 2005 champion, lost to Louie Ulrich, 7-11, the night after blanking Frank Alvarez while fellow Fil Canadian Edwin Montal bowed to Marcus Chamat, 8-11.

Meanwhile, Ramil Gallego stayed alive with an 11-7 victory over Huidje See of the Netherlands. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



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# Peso resumes climb, closes at 44.05 to $1

## Palace to tackle exporters' concerns

**By Doris C. Dumlao and Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE PESO YESTERDAY RESUMED ITS CLIMB TOWARD the crucial 44:$1 barrier as news of the government's smaller-than-expected budget deficit in September and the resurgence of remittances from overseas Filipinos overwhelmed earlier regionwide jitters over India's plan to curb inflows of "hot money."

The local currency opened at 44.15 and hit a low of 44.20 before closing at the day's peak of 44.05 to a dollar. It was prevented from further appreciating by the heavy buying of dollars by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The peso gained another 11 centavos from Wednesday's finish of 44.16 to a dollar, regaining its upward momentum after falling to as low as 44.52 during the previous day when Asian stocks tumbled following news that India would impose capital controls to slow down foreign inflows to its stock market.

This developed as investment banking giant UBS upgraded its forecast on the peso, which was

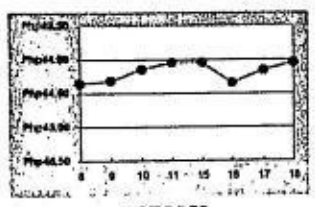
PESO/ B2

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Seaweed industry asks for tax relief** /B3

**Metal output value up** /B12

### INDICATORS




**CURRENCIES**

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 44.05 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 18, 2007

### Stocks close 0.3% higher

SHARE PRICES ENDED A TWO-DAY NEGATIVE RUN YESTERDAY, closing 0.3-percent higher in cautious trade as worries over record oil prices continued to weigh on sentiment, dealers said.

They said investors remained cautious on speculation that oil

STOCKS/ B4

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# ₱4-B ethanol project in Bukidnon gets tax perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOUTH BUKIDNON BIOENERGY Inc. has secured tax incentives and other perks from the Board of Investments for its P4.08-billion integrated facility that will produce bioethanol and electricity from sugar cane.

According to the Board of Investments, South Bukidnon's project would include a sugar cane mill and distillery for the production of ethanol, a co-generation power plant, a carbon dioxide recovery plant and an effluent treatment plant.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said ethanol, which will be used to make cleaner gasoline, would be sold to an oil company that would be the sole off-taker.

Ethanol, which will be obtained from processing sugarcane, helps lessen the consumption of gasoline as it is used to blend with the fuel to produce a mix that burns cleaner.

"As for the output of the 10-megawatt power plant that would run on bagasse [waste from pressed sugar cane], it would be used for the facility's electricity needs but the excess capacity would be sold to the local electricity distributor," Hernandez explained.

The carbon dioxide, a by-product of ethanol fermentation, will be sold to beverage and refrigeration firms.

Aside from that, the project will be earning carbon credits, a tradeable commodity under international greenhouse gas emissions trading schemes.

Carbon credits provide a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on an industrial scale by allowing companies who want to reduce their "environmental footprint" without scaling down on emissions by buying credits from environment-friendly project owners.

The South Bukidnon project, a joint venture between BronzeOak Philippines and Green Renewable Holdings Inc., will have a production capacity of 45.75 million liters a year.

BronzeOak Philippines, a partnership between the United Kingdom's BronzeOak and sugar magnate Jose Maria T. Zabaleta, is also involved in San Carlos Bioenergy Inc., which is building a P2.28-billion ethanol production project on Negros Island.

The San Carlos project also involves an 8-megawatt power co-generation component, which will generate electricity by using bagasse—the waste obtained after sugar cane has been pressed of its juice—to fuel the boiler that produces the power.

# Nationality ownership rule

Corporate Securities Info

*Raul J. Palabrica*

FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE AVERSE TO sudden changes in the rules of the game in their areas of operation.

No babes in the woods, they know that adjustments in a country's business laws have to be made from time to time to meet certain exigencies. But if the changes would adversely affect them, they expect the host government to explain to them the rationale for its action.

A few months ago, an incident in the Piatco-Fraport AG airport controversy raised concern among foreign investors about the government's application of the rules in determining the nationality of corporations with local and foreign capital.

The classification is significant for businesses that, under our Constitution, are limited to Filipinos or Filipino-owned corporations, such as the operation of public utilities and exploitation of natural resources.

The issue has its roots in a 1989 opinion of the Department of Justice that adopted the "control test" in establishing the nationality of corporate stockholders covered by that constitutional provision.

The test reads: If at least 60 percent of the capital of a corporation is owned by Filipino citizens, all the shares of the corporation, including those owned, if any, by foreigners, shall be considered of Philippine nationality.

## Ownership base

If the percentage of Filipino ownership goes below 60 percent, only the number of shares that corresponds to that percentage shall be treated as of Philippine nationality.

Upon a showing that at least 60 percent of the capital stock is owned by Filipinos (in their personal capacity or through a Filipino-owned or -controlled corporation), no further inquiries shall be made on the nationality of the owners of the remaining 40 percent.

When this corporation invests in a partially nationalized corporation, i.e., covered by the 60-40 ownership rule, its investment shall be treated as that of a corporation of Philippine nationality.

The foreign component of the investing corporation is disregarded in determining compliance with the 60-40 rule by the latter corporation.

The control test deviates from the "grandfather rule" which for many years was used as a mechanism to preserve Filipino control over businesses that Congress believed should remain in Filipino hands.

Under this rule, the nationality of the individual stockholders or, if the owner of the stocks is a corporation, the nationality of the latter's stockholders, affects the status of the corporation in which the investment was made.

## Anti-dummy

If foreigners own shares of stock—individually and as a proportion of their ownership in a stockholder-corporation—in excess of 40 percent, the corporation shall not be entitled to Philippine nationality status.

The grandfather rule had an unexpected reprise in the airport controversy when, in connection with a complaint for violation of the Anti-Dummy Law, the DOJ looked into the citizenship of the stockholders of the corporations that owned stocks in the corporation organized to operate Naia Terminal 3.

The DOJ's action prompted a corporation engaged in the exploitation of our natural resources, which has close links with foreign investors, to seek clarification from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

No such relief could be had from the DOJ because, as the government's legal counsel, it is not allowed to give legal advice to the private sector.

The local company wanted to know if the government was abandoning the control test in favor of the grandfather rule.

A definitive ruling on this question was essential because several foreign corporations have expressed interest in investing in the local company and they wanted to know how their investment will be treated for purposes of the 60-40 ownership requirement.

What's more, unless the issue is clarified, the validity of existing foreign investments in partially nationalized corporations would be put in legal limbo.

## Control test

The SEC stated that the control test laid down by the DOJ in 1989 has gained legislative acceptance through the Foreign Investment Act (or Republic Act No. 7042).

The categorical statement "the control test shall be applied" was made in the definition in the law's implementing rules of a Philippine National for purposes of entitlement to certain financial privileges.

In a scenario where a corporation invests in another corporation, the rules provide that Philippine National status shall be granted to both corporations if at least 60 percent of their respective outstanding stocks are owned by, and at least 60 percent of the members of their board of directors, are Filipino citizens.

The SEC explained that, based on the control test, further inquiry on the ownership of shareholders in "investing and investee corporations shall be dispensed with once it is clearly established that the participating corporations are 60 percent owned by Filipino citizens."

But this should not be taken to mean that the grandfather rule is already history.

In an inverse way, the SEC pointed out that the "grandfather rule will not apply in cases where the 60-40 Filipino equity ownership ... is not in doubt."

The rule therefore is: While the control test shall be used as standard to determine the nationality of corporations, the grandfather rule will be applied if there are questions about compliance with Filipino ownership requirements.

*(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)*

# Peso resumes climb, closes at 44.05 to $1

From page B1

now expected to climb to 43.50 to $1 by yearend and to 41 by end-2008 alongside a bullish outlook for most Southeast Asian currencies.

UBS earlier projected that the peso would end up at 46 this year and 45 in 2008.

In a recent commentary, the investment bank said the peso's appreciation would continue on the back of a relatively low inflation regime and the strong economic growth that could cushion the impact of adverse developments abroad.

"Looking into next year, we expect Philippine real growth to remain robust, albeit with some slowing in headline real gross domestic product (GDP) relative to the pace recorded in 2007 on average," UBS said.

A GDP growth of 6.5 percent was projected for the country for 2008 from a 7.1-percent expansion this year.

Meantime, the Cabinet will discuss next week the private sector's concern about the strong peso as the dollar-earning business process outsourcing sector struggles to ramp up its competitiveness amid tightening competition.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said yesterday that Malacañang was looking at several measures to address the situation but that he could not elaborate since everything was still subject to discussions.

"We are inviting the Bangko Sentral governor to join us in our discussions," Favila said. "The economy is growing and it will continue to grow."

"From an economist's point of view, the (continued strengthening of the peso) is a good problem, but President Macapagal-Arroyo is very much concerned," he added.

The trade chief said the continued appreciation of the peso was due to a combination of huge investment inflows, increasing remittances from abroad and the weakening of the US economy.

"Be that as it may, we have to remain sensitive to the concerns of our business constituency," Favila said. "That is why we're addressing this and there are proposals that we would have to discuss."

He said that while the Bangko Sentral would join the discussions, he stressed that the agency's stated policy was still against intervention on the local currency's value.

Also yesterday, Favila was the guest of honor in the inauguration of the American call center service provider Apac Customer Services Inc.'s third site in the country.

Apac senior vice president James McClenahan said the new center located at the Araneta Center Cyber Park, for which the company invested $14 million, could accommodate at least 2,000 seats.

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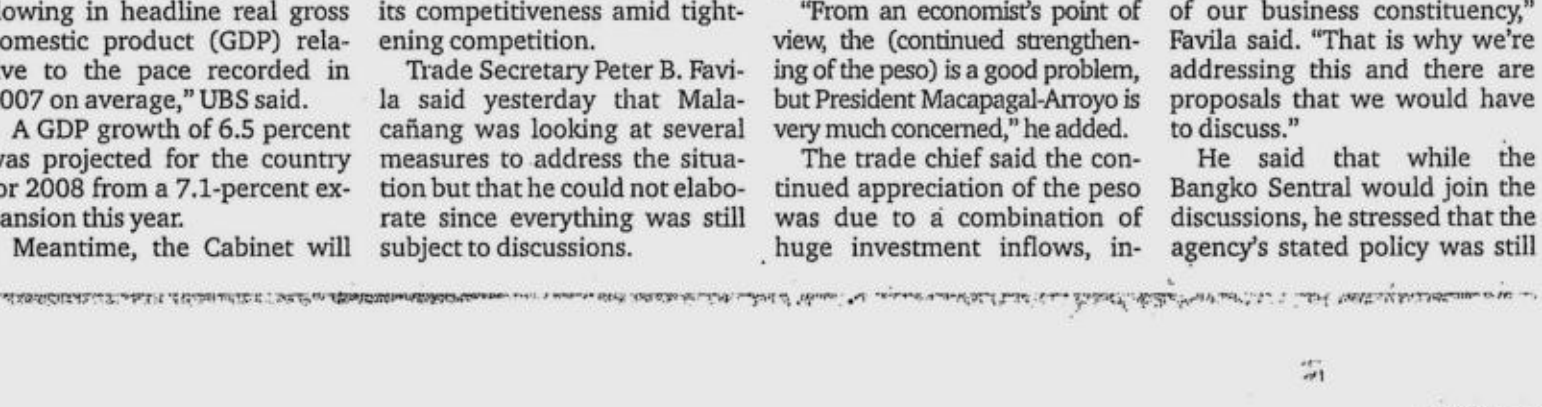

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# Seaweed industry asks for tax relief

By Amy R. Remo

THE LOCAL SEAWEED INDUSTRY has urged the government to exempt seaweed farmers and traders from the one-percent withholding tax on agricultural suppliers.

Benson U. Dakay, president of the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines, said the exemption would be a big help to the industry, which is suffering from huge losses due to the rapid peso appreciation, poor seaweed harvests due to global warming and stiffer competition.

"While China is known to subsidize their export-oriented manufacturers by 2-11 percent, the Philippines added more burden to the seaweed industry by imposing this one percent withholding tax," he explained.

Dakay said the industry urgently needed some relief as both harvest and sales are expected to drop by half this year.

Last year, seaweed production declined by 8 percent to 95,000 metric tons from 102,820 metric tons in 2004 as warmer water temperatures have made it more difficult to produce seaweed.

This year, Dakay said arrivals at the Zamboanga port are down to some 20,000 bags of seaweeds a month, from the usual 80,000 bags.

The lack of supply has caused seaweed prices to hit an all-time high of $1,100 a metric ton in the first half from $600 in the same period last year.

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| Equity Fund | 1.935982 | 1.918367 |
| Dollar Fixed Income Fund | 1.001445 | 1.000000 |

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| Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Current Week October 16, 2007 | Last Week October 09, 2007 |
|---|---|---|
| Bond Fund - Peso | 1.63846 | 1.64137 |
| Managed Fund - Peso | 1.95624 | 1.94625 |
| Growth Fund - Peso | 2.00864 | 1.96745 |
| Bond Fund - US Dollar | 1.4235 | 1.4175 |

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

Please be informed that after obtaining regulatory approval, THE PRAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. has amended its corporate name and shall henceforth be known as the "MANULIFE CHINABANK LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION".

For inquiries, please call Ms. Joy Escobido at telephone number 884 5433 loc 5498 or e-mail us at admin@manulife-chinabank.com.ph. You may also write our Head Office at:

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Attention: Ms. Joy Escobido

Please be guided accordingly.

1 October 2007

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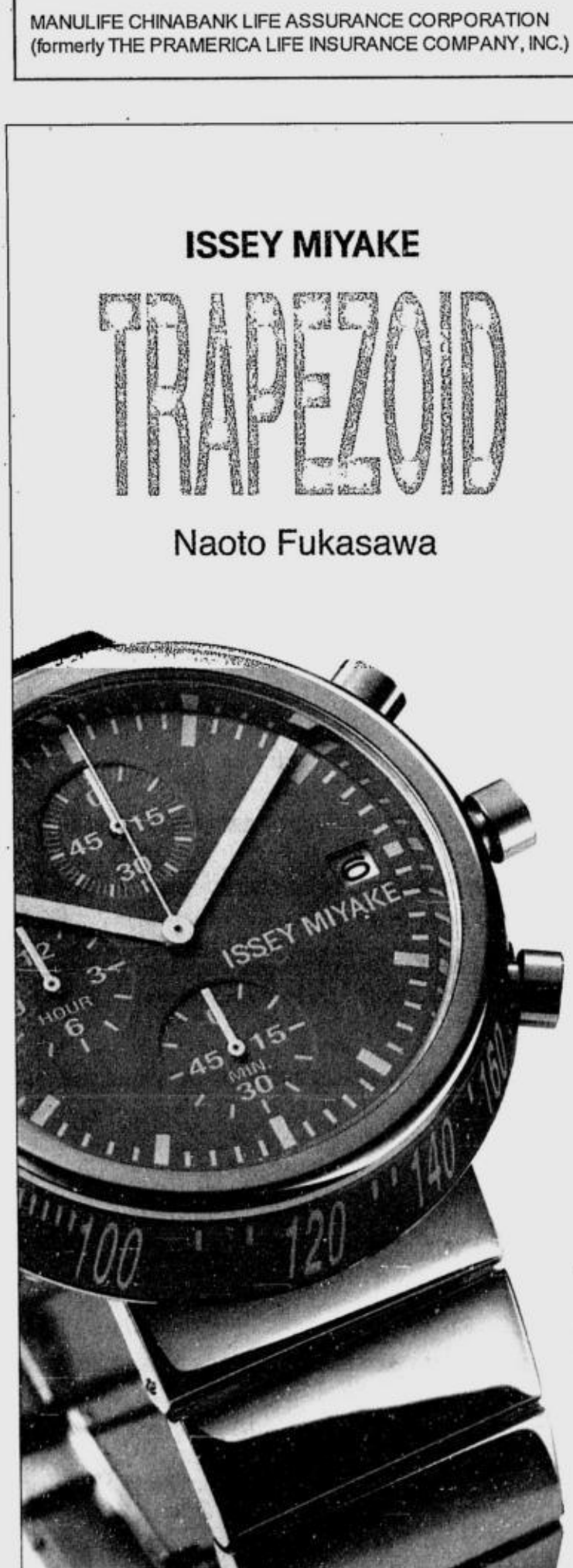
Naoto Fukasawa

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| Civic 1.8 S AT | 884,000 | 132,600 | 17,342 | 442,000 | 10,201 |
| City 1.3 S MT | 625,000 | 93,750 | 12,148 | 312,500 | 7,099 |
| City 1.3 S CVT | 665,000 | 99,750 | 12,932 | 332,500 | 7,561 |
| Jazz 1.3 S MT | 650,000 | 97,500 | 12,525 | 325,000 | 7,275 |
| CR-V 2.0 2WD MT | 1,220,000 | 183,000 | 23,933 | 610,000 | 14,078 |

*Draw dates: November 16, 2007; December 14, 2007; January 18, 2008*

*All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI Family Savings Bank and RCBC Savings Bank) Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5322 Series of 2007 See flyers for details.

HONDA

# ABS-CBN doubles 9-month net income to ₱1.1B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TELEVISION GIANT ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. yesterday reported that its nine-month earnings doubled to P1.1 billion from P551 million in the same period last year due to higher advertising revenues and the rising contribution of its subscription-based operations.

The January-September performance brought ABS-CBN beyond its earlier full-year net income goal of P1 billion.

"We think P1.2-P1.4 billion is achievable given the levels we are at already," ABS-CBN chief finance officer Miguel Navarrete said.

In the third quarter, net income grew 171 percent to P365 million from P134 million in the same period last year.

Consolidated revenues increased

## Exceeds whole year target of P1B

14 percent to P14.5 billion from P12.69 billion in the nine-month period, driven by higher airtime revenues and sale of services. Airtime revenues grew 23 percent to P9.9 billion on the back of improving ratings and higher advertising volume.

Direct sales, which consist of both sale of services and goods from subsidiaries rose 10 percent year-on-year to P4.2 billion in the nine-month period on the back of ABS-CBN Global's contribution as well as ABS-CBN Films.

As of end-June, total subscribers of ABS-CBN Global, the company's subsidiary which brings local content to the international market, grew 18 percent year-on-year, translating to a 23-percent average annual growth in viewers over a six-year period.

As of 2007, ABS-CBN Global's total subscribers reached 1.6 million from 1 million in 2004.

ABS-CBN Films' average ticket sales per movie rose 22 percent year-on-year to P110 million during the nine-month period due to ticket sales of "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" (P186 million), "Ang Cute ng Ina Mo" (P155 million) and its third quarter offering "A Love Story" (P155 million).

Total net expenses for nine months were up 7 percent year-on-year to P12.5 billion as the company continued to place a tight rein on costs.

# PSBank raising ₱2B from rights offer

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK (PSBank), the thrift bank subsidiary of banking giant Metrobank, is raising P2 billion from a proposed stock rights offering to existing shareholders.

In a regulatory filing, PSBank said it plans to use the net proceeds from the offer to strengthen its capital adequacy ratio (CAR).

A bank's CAR is the ratio of its capital to its risk-weighted assets, or the amount of capital that will allow banks to absorb losses without becoming insolvent, in order to protect depositors.

As of June, PSBank's CAR was at 17.65 percent, more than sufficient to meet the minimum 10 percent required by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Under the proposed stock rights offer, PSBank will offer up to a maximum of 40 million common shares. The exercise price will be based on a 5- to 10-percent discount to either the closing price on the trading day before the pricing date or the 10-day volume-weighted average price preceding the pricing date.

The pricing date has yet to be determined subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The terms of entitlement—or how much each eligible shareholder will be allowed to subscribe out of the stock rights offer—have yet to be set.

First Metro Investment Corp. of the Metrobank Group will be the financial adviser and issue manager.

The offer period has been tentatively set on Jan. 7-11, 2008, subject to regulatory approvals. The tentative listing date for the shares is on Jan. 18.

The SEC has yet to give its consent to the proposed offer.

PSBank reported its net income in the January to June period jumped 14 percent to P607.74 million from P533.26 million in the same period last year due to higher interest income on investments and trading gains. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

## CURRENCIES

| October 18, 2007 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.703878 | 1.000000 | 44.3610 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006029 | 0.008565 | 0.3800 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.435771 | 2.039800 | 90.4876 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.090787 | 0.128981 | 5.7217 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.596153 | 0.846955 | 37.5718 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.722297 | 1.026167 | 45.5218 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.479972 | 0.681896 | 30.2496 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.627902 | 0.892061 | 39.5727 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.866538 | 2.654632 | 117.7621 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.188228 | 0.267415 | 11.8628 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.478341 | 0.679579 | 30.1468 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000077 | 0.000110 | 0.0049 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022377 | 0.031791 | 1.4103 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.191657 | 0.272287 | 12.0789 |
| EU | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.420700 | 63.0237 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000767 | 0.001089 | 0.0483 |
| China | Yuan** | 0.093658 | 0.133060 | 5.9027 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134161 | 0.190603 | 8.4553 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017868 | 0.025413 | 1.1273 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.208680 | 0.296472 | 13.1518 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.529033 | 0.751597 | 33.3416 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109272 | 0.155243 | 6.8867 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.021581 | 0.030660 | 1.3601 |

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 17, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 17, 2007

## Stocks . . . From page B1

prices would continue to rise after the price of crude struck record levels earlier in the week. The Philippines' fuel requirements are mostly imported.

The composite index was up 11.08 points at 3,771.12 having moved in a narrow range between 3,753.09 and 3,776.83. A total of 3.4 billion shares worth P4.7 billion.

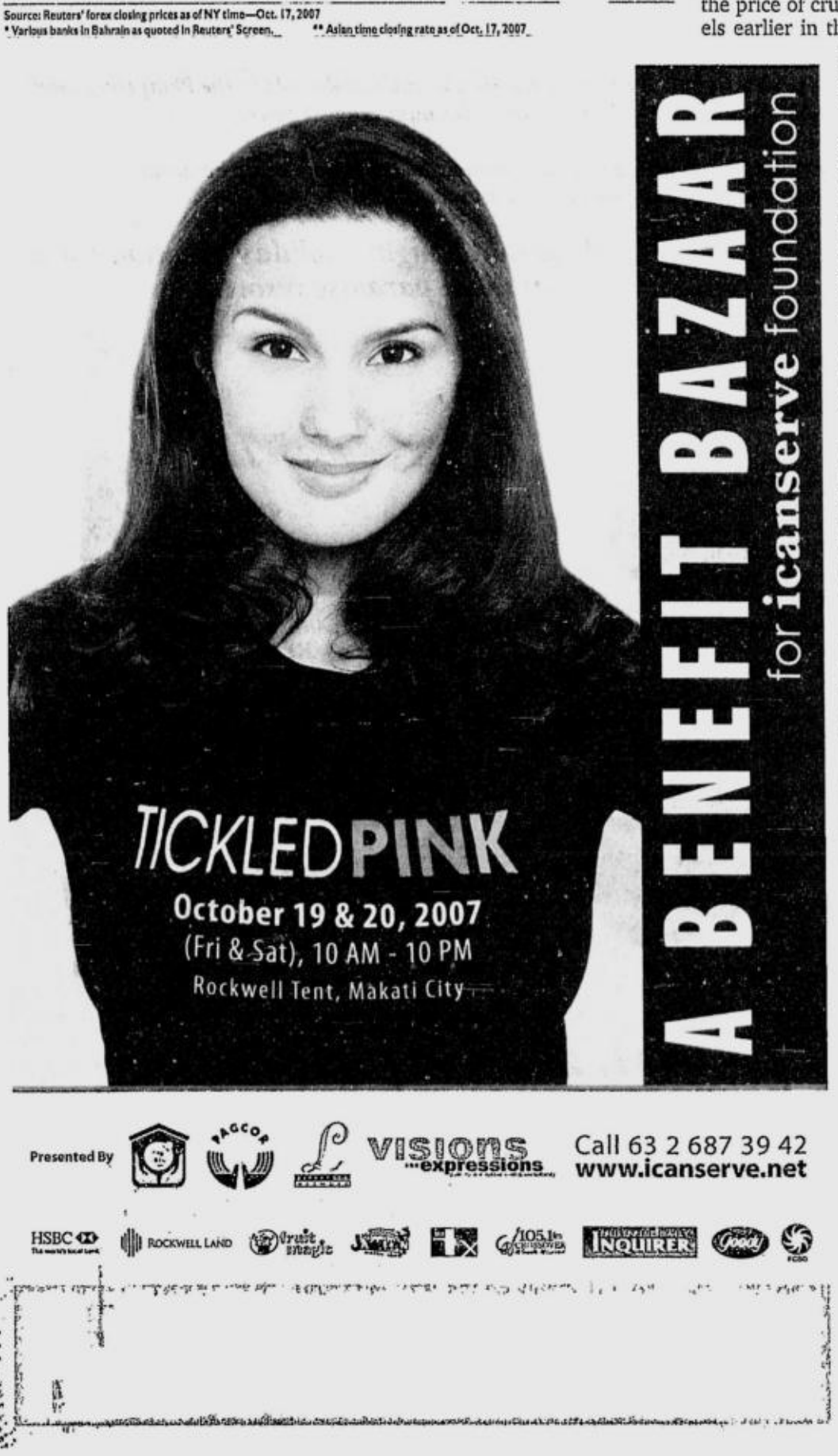
Decliners outpacing gainers 63 to 49 with 51 stocks unchanged.

"Investors remain very cautious amid speculation that oil prices may continue to rise," said Rommel Macapagal, chair of Westlink Global Equities.

Oil prices eased to $87.28 a barrel in morning trade in Asia yesterday from a new high of $89 in New York overnight, after US officials issued a stronger-than-expected report on energy stockpiles against a backdrop of tensions in the oil-rich Middle East.

"The market is trading sideways, reflecting indecisiveness as investors digest the good and bad news," said Gomer Tan at Regina Capital Development Corp.

Providing some relief to investors was the International Monetary Fund's move to raise its 2007 growth projection for the Philippine economy to a level that is within the government's target of 6.1 to 6.7 percent. *AFP*




## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 18, 2007)

| 52-WEEK HIGH | 52-WEEK LOW | STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **BANKS** | | | | | |
| 73 | 39.5 | Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.. | 64 | 64.5 | 64 | 64 | 1,926,000 |
| 73.5 | 53 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 68.5 | 69.5 | 68 | 68 | 1,708,300 |
| 748 | 520 | China Banking Corp. | 715 | 720 | 715 | 720 | 360 |
| 23.5 | 18.5 | Citystate Savings Bank | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 300 |
| 0.63 | 0.36 | Export and Industry Bank Inc. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 2,870,000 |
| 75.5 | 44 | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. | 64.5 | 65 | 64.5 | 65 | 4,491,000 |
| 65.5 | 34 | Philippine National Bank | 53 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 244,500 |
| 68 | 41 | Philippine Savings Bank | 61.5 | 62.5 | 61.5 | 62.5 | 1,800 |
| 39.57 | 15 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 29.5 | 30 | 29.5 | 29.5 | 992,300 |
| 90 | 54.5 | Security Bank Corp. | 78 | 78.5 | 78 | 78 | 556,000 |
| 66 | 44.51 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 52 | 52.5 | 52 | 52 | 328,200 |
| | | **OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| 5.6 | 1.78 | ATR KimEng Financial Corp. | 4.45 | 4.5 | 4.45 | 4.5 | 7,000 |
| 2.22 | 0.6 | Bankard Inc.. | 2.04 | 2.06 | 2 | 2.02 | 2,934,000 |
| 16.25 | 4.3 | CitisecOnline.com Inc.. | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 228,100 |
| 1.6 | 0.4 | First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1 | 1 | 250,000 |
| 42.5 | 29 | First Metro Investment Corp. | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 500 |
| 5.9 | 5.3 | I-Remit Inc.. | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 12,765,000 |
| 1,885.00 | 1,560.00 | Manulife Financial Corp. | 1,850.00 | 1,860.00 | 1,850.00 | 1,860.00 | 860 |
| 5 | 2.95 | National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 2,008,000 |
| 3.1 | 1.08 | PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.. | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 11,000 |
| 1,130.00 | 235 | The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. | 1,090.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,050.00 | 1,050.00 | 2,640 |
| 2,355.00 | 1,945.00 | Sun Life Financial Inc | 2,300.00 | 2,305.00 | 2,300.00 | 2,305.00 | 590 |
| 1.94 | 1.3 | iVantage Corp. | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 316,000 |
| | | **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| 6.2 | 3.8 | Aboitiz Power Corp. | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 2,187,000 |
| 0.57 | 0.23 | East Asia Power Resources Corp. | 0.36 | 0.4 | 0.36 | 0.4 | 250,000 |
| 70.5 | 49 | First Gen Corp. | 67 | 67 | 66 | 66.5 | 462,000 |
| 92 | 50 | First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 87 | 87.5 | 87 | 87 | 509,600 |
| 17.5 | 8.8 | Manila Water Co. Inc.. | 16.75 | 17.5 | 16.75 | 17 | 3,681,300 |
| 105.45 | 23.18 | Manila Electric Co. | 82 | 82 | 80 | 80.5 | 3,527,300 |
| 7.8 | 4.1 | PNOC Energy Development Corp. | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 17,249,000 |
| 6.6 | 3.9 | Petron Corp. | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6,023,000 |
| 14.75 | 6.6 | Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.. | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 309,000 |
| 1.9 | 0.99 | Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 398,000 |
| | | **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| 6.3 | 3.2 | Alaska Milk Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 185,000 |
| 2.95 | 1.66 | Alliance Tuna International Inc.. | 1.94 | 1.96 | 1.86 | 1.88 | 796,000 |
| 2.4 | 1.08 | CADP Group Corp. | 1.52 | 1.6 | 1.52 | 1.6 | 32,000 |
| 61 | 39 | Jollibee Foods Corp. | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 481,800 |
| 0.98 | 0.5 | RFM Corp. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 110,000 |
| 3.85 | 2.06 | Roxas Holdings | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1,537,000 |
| 80 | 59 | San Miguel Corp. "A" | 60.5 | 60.5 | 60 | 60 | 17,900 |
| 88 | 59.5 | San Miguel Corp. "B" | 61.5 | 62 | 61 | 61.5 | 418,900 |
| 0.66 | 0.31 | Swift Foods Inc.. | 0.49 | 0.5 | 0.49 | 0.5 | 1,010,000 |
| 6.5 | 2 | Tanduay Holdings Inc.. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6 | 6.1 | 168,000 |
| 22 | 15.25 | Universal Robina Corp. | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 4,601,600 |
| 0.55 | 0.26 | Vitarich Corp. | 0.39 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 740,000 |
| | | **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 6.1 | 2.41 | EEI Corp. | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 1,075,000 |
| 21.5 | 6 | Federal Resources Investment Group Inc.. | 14.75 | 14.75 | 13 | 13.5 | 54,500 |
| 9.2 | 4.95 | Holcim Philippines Inc.. | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 38,000 |
| 7 | 2 | Republic Cement Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 2,000 |
| 2 | 0.37 | Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 25,695,000 |
| | | **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| 6.3 | 3.75 | Chemrez Technologies Inc. | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.65 | 4,191,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| 0.75 | 0.16 | Philcom Resources Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 3,750,000 |
| | | **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| 3.9 | 2.38 | A. Soriano Corp. | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 517,000 |
| 0.17 | 0.027 | AJO.net Holdings Inc.. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 11,730,000 |
| 1.28 | 0.235 | APC Group Inc.. | 0.83 | 0.84 | 0.8 | 0.81 | 7,870,000 |
| 3.65 | 1.5 | ATN Holdings Inc.. "A" | 3.1 | 3.15 | 3 | 3 | 516,000 |
| 0.018 | 0.0075 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "A" | 0.011 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 48,200,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.0075 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc.. "B" | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 9,500,000 |
| 0.7 | 5.6 | Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7 | 7.1 | 1,664,000 |
| 0.021 | 0.0075 | Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 23,400,000 |
| 7.3 | 3.5 | Alliance Global Group Inc.. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 7,451,000 |
| 1.38 | 0.54 | Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.. | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.89 | 330,000 |
| 2.9 | 0.89 | Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 1,226,000 |
| 8 | 0.8 | Aries Prime Resources Inc.. | 3 | 3.45 | 3 | 3.45 | 4,000 |
| 615 | 397.92 | Ayala Corp. | 570 | 575 | 570 | 575 | 224,470 |
| 15.25 | 7.22 | Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 109,100 |
| 5.8 | 1.36 | Benpres Holdings Corp. | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.45 | 4.5 | 8,798,000 |
| 10.25 | 4.25 | DMCI Holdings Inc.. | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 475,000 |
| 6.9 | 1.08 | Eton Properties Philippines Inc.. | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 235,000 |
| 2.5 | 0.7 | F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A" | 1.54 | 1.58 | 1.5 | 1.58 | 150,000 |
| 3.55 | 1.46 | House of Investments Inc.. | 2.1 | 2.14 | 2.1 | 2.14 | 95,000 |
| 14.5 | 7 | JG Summit Holdings Inc | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 30,000 |
| 5.9 | 0.61 | Jollivilla Holdings Corp. | 1.92 | 2.02 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 95,000 |
| 2.6 | 1.2 | Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc.. "A" | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 7,000 |
| 11.5 | 1.38 | Minerales Industrias Corp. | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8 | 8.2 | 6,101,000 |
| 0.28 | 0.011 | Pacifica Inc.. "A" | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.215 | 0.22 | 466,620,000 |
| 0.75 | 0.16 | Prime Orion Philippines Inc.. | 0.49 | 0.5 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 2,160,000 |
| 452.5 | 249.35 | SM Investments Corp. | 395 | 402.5 | 392.5 | 400 | 625,450 |
| 0.73 | 0.13 | Sinophil Corp. | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 5,710,000 |
| 1.06 | 0.61 | Solid Group Inc.. | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 480,000 |
| 1.6 | 0.9 | South China Resources Inc.. | 1.46 | 1.48 | 1.46 | 1.48 | 51,000 |
| 23 | 1 | TKC Steel Corp. | 18 | 18.25 | 18 | 18.25 | 25,500 |
| 0.75 | 0.1 | Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.39 | 0.4 | 0.37 | 0.4 | 12,580,000 |
| | | **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| 2.34 | 1 | A Brown Co. Inc.. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 200,000 |
| 8.9 | 5 | Anchor Land Holdings Inc. | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 52,000 |
| 1.06 | 0.32 | Araneta Properties Inc.. | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 180,000 |
| 19.25 | 11.46 | Ayala Land Inc.. | 16.75 | 17 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16,981,300 |
| 1.88 | 1 | Belle Corp. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 765,000 |
| 4.7 | 2.8 | Cebu Holdings Inc.. | 3.9 | 4.05 | 3.9 | 4.05 | 302,000 |
| 0.86 | 0.35 | Crown Equities Inc.. | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.62 | 0.63 | 3,010,000 |
| 0.83 | 0.24 | Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.47 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 660,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.52 | Empire East Land Holdings Inc.. | 0.8 | 0.81 | 0.79 | 0.8 | 5,200,000 |
| 0.47 | 0.055 | Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 3,700,000 |
| 1.48 | 0.61 | Fil-Estate Land Inc.. | 1.12 | 1.14 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 9,875,000 |
| 2.44 | 1.26 | Filinvest Land Inc.. | 1.84 | 1.94 | 1.84 | 1.94 | 57,809,000 |
| 0.49 | 0.11 | Gotesco Land Inc.. "A" | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 770,000 |
| 1.12 | 0.31 | MRC Allied Industries Inc.. | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 0.66 | 320,000 |
| 4.4 | 1.85 | Megaworld Corp. | 4.2 | 4.25 | 4.2 | 4.25 | 60,374,000 |
| 6.4 | 1.5 | Metro Pacific Investments Corp. | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 56,000 |
| 0.87 | 0.32 | Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 6,340,000 |
| 23 | 12.75 | Robinson Land Corp. | 21 | 22.25 | 21 | 22 | 5,161,700 |
| 5.9 | 1.52 | SM Development Corp. | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3,245,000 |
| 13.5 | 6.64 | SM Prime Holdings Inc.. | 11.75 | 12.25 | 11.75 | 12 | 7,663,300 |
| 3.25 | 1.18 | Shang Properties Inc.. | 2.42 | 2.46 | 2.42 | 2.46 | 250,000 |
| 1.34 | 0.46 | Suntrust Home Developers Inc.. | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.66 | 0.67 | 310,000 |
| 0.49 | 0.09 | Uniwide Holdings Inc.. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 4,110,000 |
| 7.5 | 3.65 | Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc | 6 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 15,733,000 |
| | | **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| 38.5 | 18.75 | ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp | 30 | 30.5 | 30 | 30.5 | 28,700 |
| 11.75 | 8.4 | GMA Network Inc | 8.6 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 1,115,000 |
| | | **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.12 | 1.1 | Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1,551,000 |
| 1,740.00 | 1,085.00 | Globe Telecom Inc.. | 1,700.00 | 1,735.00 | 1,700.00 | 1,730.00 | 96,770 |
| 3,285.00 | 2,155.00 | Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 3,015.00 | 3,025.00 | 3,010.00 | 3,025.00 | 93,620 |
| 8.1 | 4.7 | Pilipino Telephone Corp | 7.4 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 1,439,000 |
| | | **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| 0.39 | 0.17 | Boulevard Holdings Inc.. | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.225 | 5,140,000 |
| 12 | 2 | Diversified Financial Network Inc.. | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 70,000 |
| 11.5 | 2 | IPVG Corp. | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 742,000 |
| 0.065 | 0.027 | ISM Communications Corp. | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.044 | 0.044 | 93,800,000 |
| 2.9 | 1.48 | Ionics Inc.. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 210,000 |
| 0.32 | 0.044 | Island Information and Technology Inc.. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.21 | 0.215 | 19,900,000 |
| 2.08 | 1.1 | Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.48 | 1.5 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 544,000 |
| 0.0725 | 0.03 | PhilWeb.Com Inc.. | 0.055 | 0.0575 | 0.055 | 0.0575 | 51,600,000 |
| 5.8 | 1.34 | Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc. | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 2,245,000 |
| | | **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 6.8 | 3.6 | Asian Terminals Inc.. | 4.15 | 4.2 | 4.15 | 4.2 | 95,000 |
| 42.5 | 18.5 | Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.. | 39 | 39 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 862,900 |
| 2.16 | 0.93 | Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 179,000 |
| | | **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| 16.5 | 5 | Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp. | 9 | 11 | 9 | 10.25 | 39,000 |
| 4.25 | 1.8 | Leisure and Resorts World Corp.. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 76,000 |
| 0.98 | 0.32 | Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 700,000 |
| 1.2 | 0.46 | Waterfront Philippines Inc | 0.8 | 0.81 | 0.79 | 0.8 | 4,960,000 |
| | | **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| 3.7 | 2.6 | iPeople Inc | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 325,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 41 | 6.6 | JTH Davies Holdings Inc.. | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 100 |
| 6 | 1.96 | Macroasia Corp. | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 2,479,000 |
| 17.25 | 9.8 | Pacific Online Systems Corp.. | 12.75 | 13 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 43,600 |
| 30 | 10.5 | Paxys Inc | 13 | 14 | 13 | 13.5 | 8,513,900 |
| | | **MINING** | | | | | |
| 0.017 | 0.0085 | Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 293,100,000 |
| 7.6 | 3.6 | Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "A" | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 3,910,000 |
| 7.7 | 3.85 | Apex Mining Co. Inc.. "B" | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 36,000 |
| 21.25 | 7.8 | Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 15.25 | 15.5 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 2,732,200 |
| 14.25 | 8.9 | Benguet Corp. "A" | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 19,000 |
| 10.5 | 1.8 | Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.. | 8.3 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 8.2 | 428,000 |
| 3.1 | 0.56 | GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.. | 2.8 | 2.85 | 2.7 | 2.75 | 40,655,000 |
| 0.39 | 0.18 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A" | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 31,100,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.22 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B" | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 6,400,000 |
| 0.038 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. "A" | 0.028 | 0.029 | 0.027 | 0.027 | 221,300,000 |
| 0.041 | 0.02 | Manila Mining Corp. "B" | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 8,500,000 |
| 30 | 1.92 | NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.. | 27 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 4,607,000 |
| 0.021 | 0.0079 | Omico Corp. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 829,100,000 |
| 9.7 | 3.5 | Philex Mining Corp. | 8.9 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 9.4 | 27,750,000 |
| 43.5 | 14.75 | Semirara Mining Corp. | 41 | 43.5 | 41 | 42.5 | 435,400 |
| 1.36 | 0.43 | United Paragon Mining Corp. | 0.99 | 1 | 0.99 | 1 | 1,180,000 |
| 1.8 | 0.63 | Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp | 1.3 | 1.32 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 3,856,000 |
| | | **OIL** | | | | | |
| 0.58 | 0.25 | Basic Energy Corp | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 3,750,000 |
| 0.029 | 0.0095 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A" | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 153,000,000 |
| 0.03 | 0.01 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B" | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.026 | 0.027 | 92,200,000 |
| 11.75 | 9 | Petroenergy Resources Corp. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 54,800 |
| 0.032 | 0.0089 | The Philodrill Corp. | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.028 | 0.028 | 124,400,000 |

| AVERAGES | | | VOLUME | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial | 963.15 UP | 13.05 | 31,642,450 | 730,004,490.00 |
| Industrial | 4,734.75 DOWN | 13.91 | 79,499,900 | 790,626,860.00 |
| Holding Firms | 2,134.40 UP | 23.59 | 618,954,020 | 662,391,030.00 |
| Property | 1,755.65 UP | 31.72 | 203,067,300 | 987,897,790.00 |
| Service | 1,834.34 DOWN | 4.77 | 196,848,790 | 671,415,880.00 |
| Mining & Oil | 8,216.66 UP | 53.72 | 1,864,213,400 | 773,409,275.00 |
| All Shares Index | 2,371.58 UP | 6.89 | | |
| PSEi | 3,771.12 UP | 11.08 | | |
| | | GRAND TOTALS | 2,994,225,860 | 4,615,745,325.00 |

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# Another cut in BSP rates seen

## DBS says a 25-basis point reduction likely

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF SINGAPORE EXpects the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to cut its benchmark interest rates by another 25 basis points before the end of the year. It, however, sees little room for further easing of monetary policies afterwards.

In a commentary dated Oct. 15, the DBS Group's research unit said that with the country's economic growth hitting a 20-year high in the first semester, there seemed little reason for the BSP's easing of its overnight borrowing and lending rates to 5.75 percent and 7.75 percent last Oct. 4.

The bank, however, said there was indeed more to be gained from slashing the benchmark rates—such as reducing the cost of special deposit accounts (SDAs), which had been attracting funds and helping to slow down the peso's sharp appreciation.

"If the BSP moved for the reasons we outlined, then there continues to be basis for further easing in the months ahead. In 2008, however, room for further cuts is likely to start narrowing," DBS said.

The scope for further monetary easing, the bank said, would be limited by the likelihood that the US Federal Reserve was now almost done with its easing cycle.

The BSP's last cut followed a steeper-than-expected 50-basis point benchmark rate reduction by the US Fed, which was aimed at easing the worsening credit crunch caused by rising delinquencies in subprime mortgages or housing loans given to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

DBS expects one more 25-basis point cut in the US Fed rate—the rate at which banks in the US lend to each other—to 4.5 percent at the upcoming Oct. 31 meeting of the central bank's open market committee.

Narrowing the spread between domestic and US interest rates should, at a minimum, help mute the more speculative aspects of the peso's strengthening, DBS said.

As the economy continues to grow at a fairly robust pace, upward pressure on prices would likewise prevent the BSP from cutting interest rates.

"Indeed risks to the outlook on growth—and hence inflation—lie to the upside, considering that the current easing bias in BSP policy is coming ahead of a projected rise in budget spending in 2008," DBS said.

The Singaporean bank said it was also wary of the rise in food prices since May this year, especially given that food was the largest component in the country's consumer price basket used in measuring inflation.

"The bottomline, then, is that the BSP does not have significant room to maneuver policy-wise in the coming months," DBS said.

Also, the bank said the US Fed would likely lift its interest rates again from the third quarter of 2008, thus raising possibility that the BSP would do likewise in the latter part of next year.

"Data in the coming quarters will provide clarity on the probability of such a scenario but until then, we look for the BSP to cut policy rates by another 25 basis points before the year is up," DBS said.

Prior to the 25-basis point cut sanctioned by the BSP earlier this month, the bank noted that the SDA was costing the central bank about 6.2-6.4 percent higher than its returns on its foreign exchange reserve, about four-fifths of which were denominated in US dollars.

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# Palace cites BPO industry

NEW YORK—PRESident Macapagal Arroyo hailed the giant strides made by the Philippine outsourcing industry, telling an audience of 300 American business executives recently that the Philippines was now a strong number two to India in outsourcing preferences.

The President made her remarks at a dinner hosted by the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and the Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel.

Butch Meily, president of the chamber, cited the closeness of Philippine-American ties over the years, calling the evening a "family affair."

Philippine Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the Philippines was aiming at capturing 10 percent of the global outsourcing business by 2010. Oscar Sanez, BPAP president, said this meant potential revenues of $13 billion and 900,000 jobs, a huge jump from the 2006 estimate of $3 billion in revenues and 250,000 jobs.

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Hytech Integrated Products, Inc. | #210-N Domingo St., San Juan, MM | 722-1022 / 728-0009
Next Innovation | U-2605 26/F Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City | 687-4913 to 15
Sim Computer | 3/F Metrobar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City | 896-0178
Subic Infotcorp | 9233 Dita St., San Antonio Village, Makati City | 895-5845 / 897-6337
Zenshin Systems Corporation | 25 G. Roxas St., Brgy. San Jose, Quezon City | 365-0536
Columbia South | City Triangle, M. Roxas & C.M. Recto Avenue, Davao City | (082) 222-1806 / (082) 222-8608
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DLP Projection System • SVGA (800x600) • SXGA (1280x1024) Contrast Ratio: 2000:1 • 2,300 ANSI Lumens • audio and digital zoom with Remote Control with mouse function and PageUp/Down function internal speaker with 1W output • with DVI port.
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* Projects/Tenders/Bidding! are not entitled to this program.
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# A Night of Glitz & Glamour at the 2

**TX - 37LX75**

### Clear-cut vision

*Panasonic's TX-37LX75 provides well-defined and in focus high-quality picture innovation that presents V-Real II technology at its finest. Visual treats include high-resolution pictures enhanced by the state-of-the-art V-Real II processor that reproduce humdrum images into masterpieces. For performance optimizing of the display panel, the high-performance V-real II driver renders smooth, crystal clear motion and subtle shades with rich gradation.*

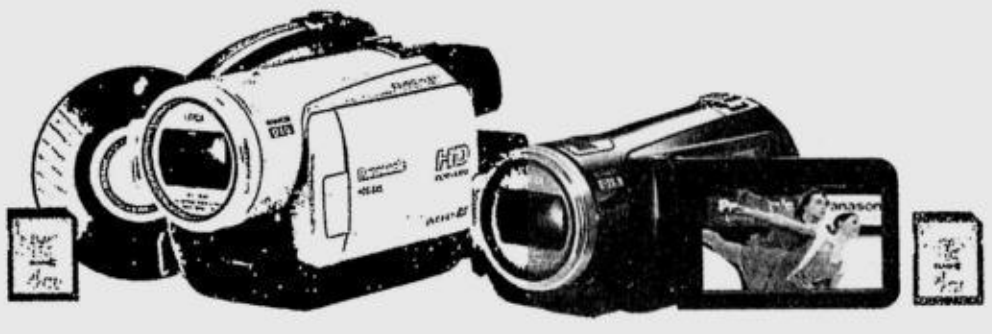
*The 37" Viera LCD TV offers convenience with its PC input and compact size that helps minimize size to save space for transport, stock and display.*

**LUMIX FX100**

### Blur-free imaging!

*As big things come in small packages, the new Lumix FX100 becomes its living testament. With the outstanding performance of its 28mm wide-angle lens and a 12.2-megapixel CCD, it's amazing how these amazing treats come from a sleek and compact body.*

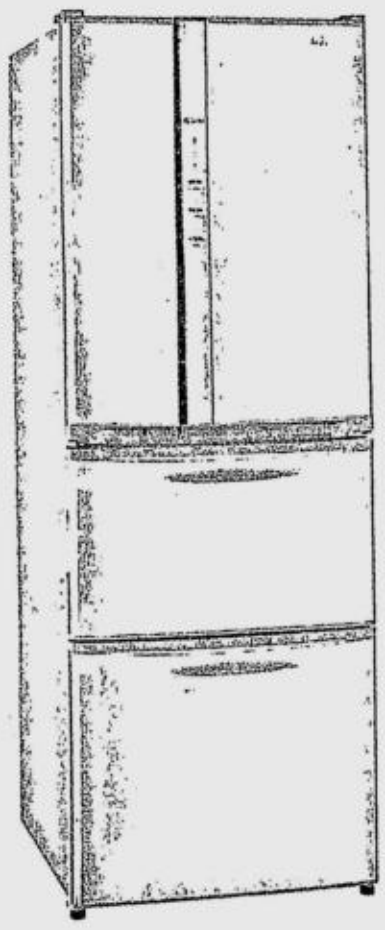
*The Lumix FX100 also has an Intelligent ISO Control that prevents motion blur, creating clear, crisp shots amidst inevitable movements and the MEGA O.I.S. that raises both the detection precision and corrective effect.*



**HDC - SX5** **HDC - SD5**

### Shifts of excellence

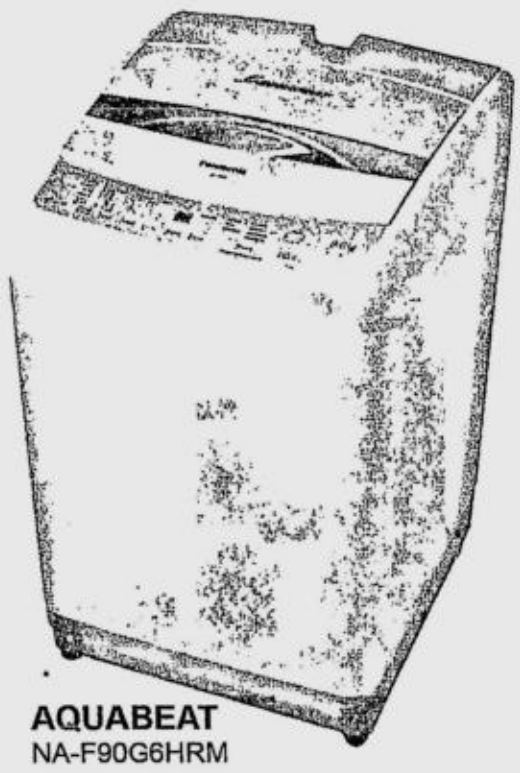
*Panasonic's band of full high-definition camcorders reach its monumental feat with the new HDC-SX5 and the new HDC-SD5 that captures motions despite long distances with the 10x optical zoom, stores memory in a reliable medium with both SD Card and DVD disc compatibility, and the exceptional 3CCD technology. Catching a glimpse of beautiful moments in a 1920 x 1080 full high-definition portray an even bigger deal with its crystal clear images and motion pictures fueled by high-definition crystal engine. With Panasonic, every movement is an art.*



### The i-Age: A new era in refrigerators

*A refrigerator is always on, so it uses more electricity than any other household appliance. But there's no need to worry with a smart inverter refrigerator. It varies power to suit the situation - more power in the day when it's often opened and closed, and less at night when it's hardly ever used. The result is extremely efficient operation for dramatic energy saving, which means reduced electricity costs*

*The inverter intelligently uses 4 power settings to match the temperature inside the refrigerator and the amount of food stored. Full-power operation is selected whn the door is frequently opened and closed, while minimum power operation is selected when it is infrequently opened and closed to dramatically reduce electric consumption..*

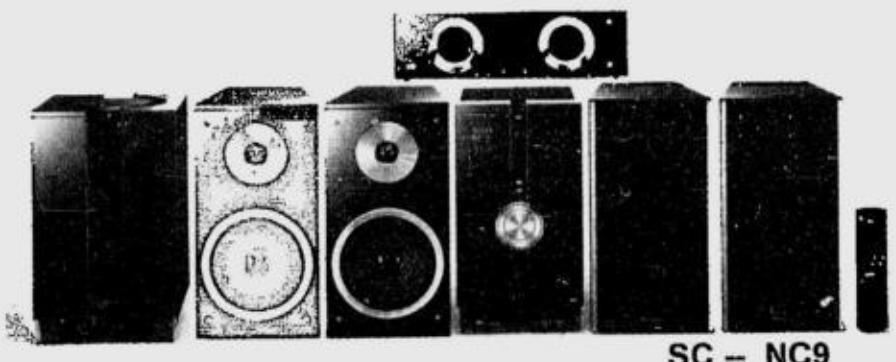


**AQUABEAT**
NA-F90G6HRM

### Spotless Science

*The newest technology in Panasonic's line of washing machines, the Aquabeat Water Flow Configuration, puts forward exceptional washing and laundry process where water flows in a powerful vortex. Specializing on conventional water course, Aquabeat arms itself with powerful water splash and powerful tidal effect that can produce high-pressure splash for cleaner and fresher washing.*

*Also, with the Double Washing effect that produces a squeezing and a beating effect to clean clothes and the conventional foam wash that doubles washing power flawless results, Aquabeat shows twofold strength for more powerful and water-saving features.*



**SC – NC9**

### Full-blast soundtrip

*Dream and experience surround sound at its loudest and most beautiful reverberation with the all-new SC-NC9 that revolutionizes multi-layout speaker system innovations. Introducing excellent optical sound quality from every music score, the SC-NC9 DVD mini-system has bi-amp twin speaker quality sound, for hi-fi experience, a powerful stereo sound for musical high, a 5.1 inch surround sound for magnificent movie moments and the multi speaker party sound for absolute party perfection.*

*Panasonic's SC-NC9 also grandstands high-quality picture and easy operation, with up to 1080p Up-Conversion. It also supports USB connection for WMA, MP3, JPEG and MPEG2 Playback. Another great come on for SC-NC9 is its Viera Link capabilities that let you operate a variety of AV devices using the Viera remote control, thus taking another step forward on the HD revolution.*

## Convergence fo

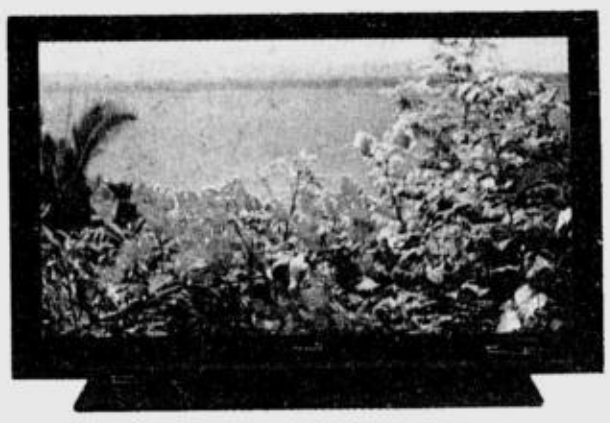
**Panasonic recently brought forth the newest innov all-encompassing appliance network, promoting exc visual, audio, photography, cooling and storage and Intercontinental.**

As it steps on a whole new visual era, Panasonic's TX-3 redefines high-picture innovation with the V-Real II technolo prides ultimate high picture quality. The Viera V-Real II pro enhances the basic quality of images reproduced from input signals, rendering beautiful, high-resolution pictures. It also high-performance driver that optimizes the performance of the panel. It also helps render smooth, crystal-clear motion and d colors with rich gradation. The new TX-37LX75 also features an Input X2 for expandability and ease of use, the PC Input that c connected to a computer for Internet access and in v presentations and training programs, and the Viera Link, the innovation for the ultimate viewing experience that lets users o various applications like DVD players and recorders, still and cameras, and audio systems for the perfect entertainment packag Viera Link uses control signals to interlink different operations con by the Viera remote control unit.

For quality sound home theater, the SC-NC9 trumps old-school technology with its multi-layout speaker system for optical sound from every music source. The multi-layout speaker system boast bi-amp twin speaker quality sound for hi-fi sessions, powerful sound for music trips, 5.1ch surround sound for movie date multi-speaker party sound for full-blast revelry. The SC-NC9 i equipped with USB connectivity for MP3, WMA, JPEG and M playbacks, a feather-touch auto-reverse deck and digital synth tuner with 60 stations preset memory. For new-fangled home t experience, the SC-NC9 has magnetic shielding for total con and entertainment joyride.

True sophistication can be deceiving and misleading but not a new Lumix FX100. Now with its Intelligent Auto (iA) techno FX100 automatically selects the optimal shooting mode and prev forms of blurring. The 12.2-megapixel camera has shake detecti rids of blurriness caused by careless handshakes. With the cutting MEGA O.I.S., the FX100 can distinguish handshake from any camera movements, improving both detection and correction in shot. FX100 also features face detection that prevents out-of portraits and erroneous exposures. It detects up to 15 faces in a and automatically readjusts the settings once their positions chan

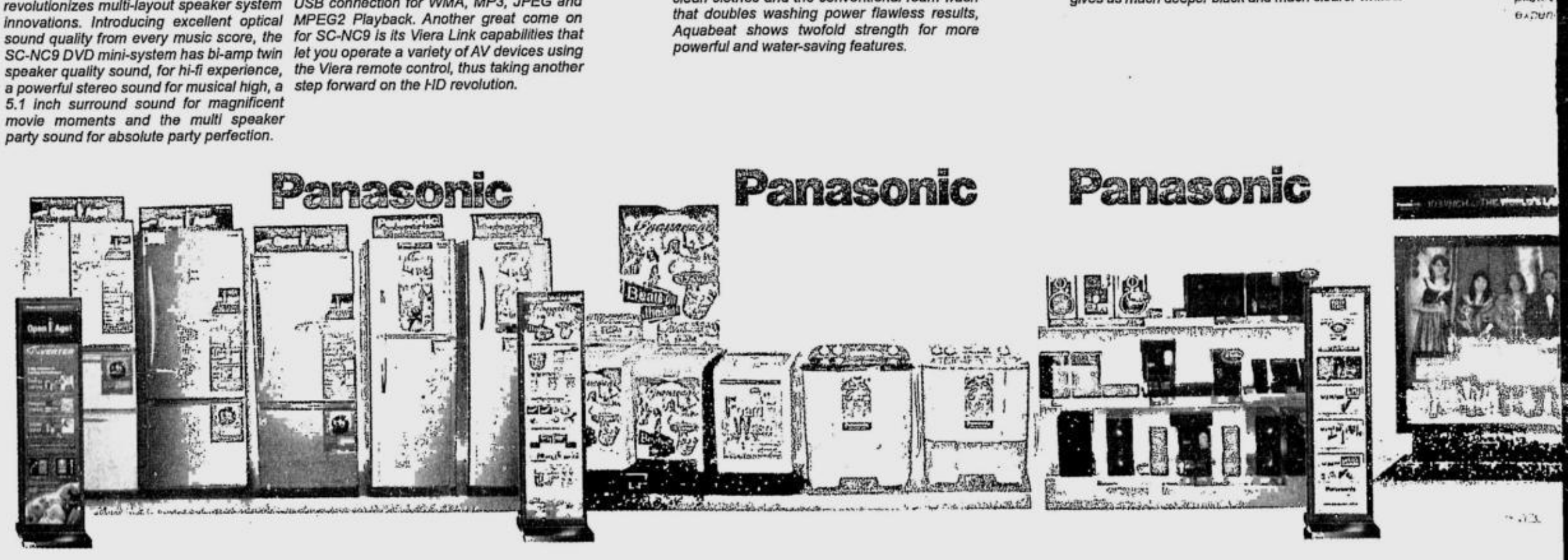
Other features of the iA-laden Lumix FX100 include scene de which operates with an Intelligent Scene Selector that sens ambient conditions and automatically selects Scenery, Portrait, Night Portrait or Night Scenery mode accordingly. Complicated s will now be a thing of the past as the FX100 does everything you n a picture. It also contains motion detection through the Intelligent



TH-65PY700H

### 65" PDP (TH-65PY700)

*The TH-65PY700 boasts of a resolution of 1920 X 1080 Full HD panel. This means that this plasma TV is capable of producing the highest picture quality available in the market today! For example, this Blue ray player by Panasonic can produce a 1080p (Progressive) picture quality signal, which is the highest in the market today, but only if you connect it to a Full HD panel like our 65PY700. This model has a high contrast ratio of 10,000:1. This gives us much deeper black and much clearer whites.*

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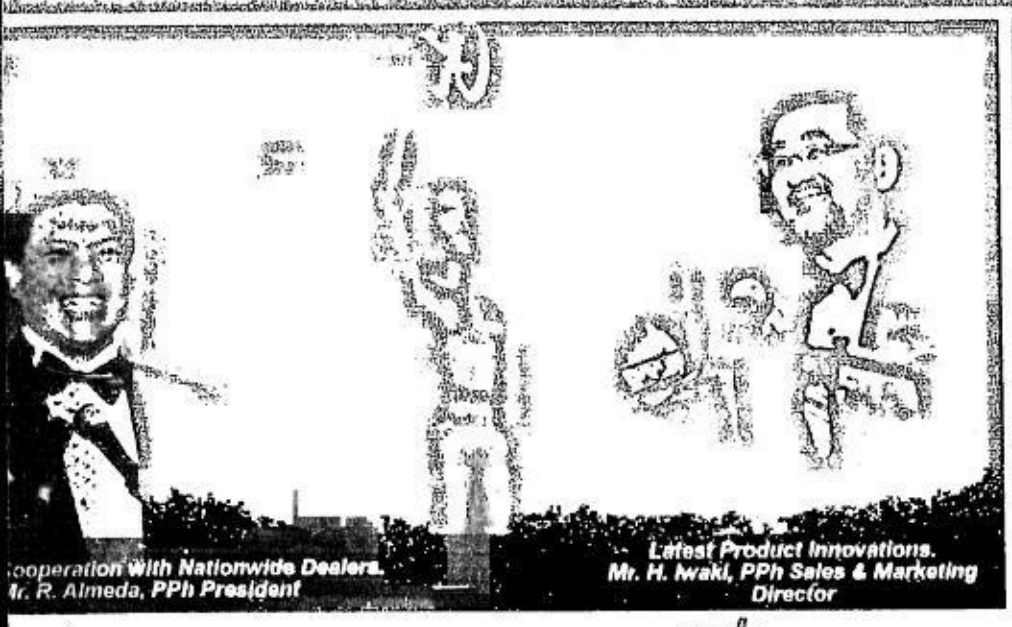
# 007 Panasonic Dealers' Convention



...operation with Nationwide Dealers.
...r. R. Almeda, PPh President

Latest Product Innovations.
Mr. H. Iwaki, PPh Sales & Marketing Director

And the King sings Concert King Martin Nievera serenades Baby Cheng of SM Star Appliance

"Hosting technology evolution." Renowned TV host Boy Abunda tries the revolutionary Nintendo Wii in the equally insurgent Panasonic 103-inch plasma TV that shatters conventional viewing experience today.

Mr. Jimmy del Rosario (Chairman of the Board - EMCOR INC. / X-Service) affirmatively being interviewed by TV host Phoemela Barranda

James Manalo (Luzon Regional Manager), Toshihiko Iwamoto (Executive Director), Ric Cleo (PMPC President), Marvin & Jovel Estrada (Estrada's Enterprise)

Danny & Cynthia Dizon of Family Trade House, all smiles while being interviewed by Troy Montero.

# ...or Greatness at 40

**...tions in the market that comprise its ...llence, quality and convenience in the ...other household services arena, at the Hotel**

...'LX75 ...v that ...essor' ...video ...as a ...splay ...licate ...HDMI ...an.be ...ewing ...latest ...perate ...video. ...The ...rolled ...stereo ...quality ...of its ...stereo ...s and ...s also ...PEG4 ...sizer ...heater ...ience ...th the ...y, the ...nts all ...n that ...edge ...other ...every ...focus ...photo ...ed. ...ection ...s the ...Macro, ...ttings ...eed in ...SO

Control that helps the camera determine whether or not the subject is in motion. It adjusts the ISO sensitivity and shutter speed correspondingly so one has a beautiful shot despite unnecessary movements.

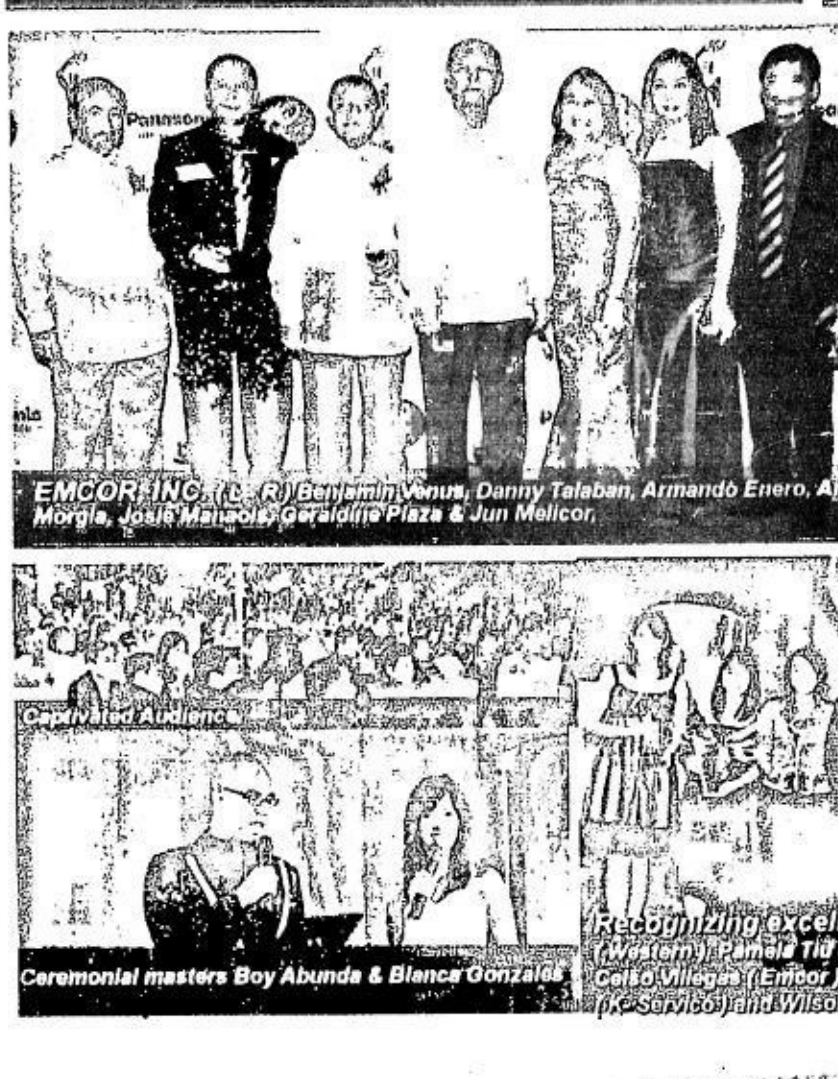
To capture fun memories in slow and swift motions, Panasonic offers its streak of full high-definition camcorders with the new HDC-SX5 and the new HDC-SD5 that have 10x optical zoom, SD Card and DVD disc compatibility, and 3CCD technology. With a 2.7 wide LCD, they also have a 1920 x 1080 full high-definition to portray crystal clear images and motion pictures in high-definition crystal engine.

A new era in refrigerators has also come for the continuous innovative revolution with Panasonic's array of refrigerators that adopt an Intelligent Inverter technology for electricity-saving needs. With the Intelligent Microprocessor, the brain that monitors the temperature inside the refrigerators senses the changes in the condition and reports that information to the compressor. On the other hand, the Inverter Compressor or the "heart" of the refrigerator adjusts the power output that raises or lowers the inverter rpms for optimal cooling. Consequently, the power varies depending on the situation as it saves power when not needed. Using the low-power cooling and full-power cooling, electricity consumption will be dramatically reduced.

Aside from energy-saving capabilities, Panasonic refrigerators also promote convenience and hygiene with its Twin Bio Attacker than fights both odor and bacteria to keep refs clean and fresh. The Twin Bio Attacker is divided into the Bio Odor Attacker, a powerful deodorization that eliminates unpleasant smells such as tainted meat or fermented food, and the BIO Bacteria Attacker that inactivates 99.98% of invisible kitchen bacteria to help keep food fresh.

For a revolutionary cleaning and washing process, Panasonic also introduced the Aquabeat Water Flow Configuration in its line of washing machines where water flows in a powerful vortex for conventional water course. With Aquabeat, there is powerful water splash and powerful tidal effect that can produce high-pressure splash for cleaner and fresher washing. Panasonic also features the Double Washing effect that produces a squeezing and a beating effect to clean clothes. In addition to Aquabeat Water Flow, Aquabeat washing combines with conventional foam wash to double the washing power for super clean results. It also provides more rinsing power, tub hygiene course, and water-saving features.

Putting forth power, excellence, quality, and convenience that can spearhead another insurgency in modernity and innovation, Panasonic remains one of the leaders in the electrics and electronics industry, transforming ideas into ground-breaking instruments for a better and more globally-competitive generation.



EMCOR INC. (L - R) Benjamin Venus, Danny Talaban, Armando Enero, Angel Morgia, Josie Manalo, Geraldine Plaza & Jun Melicor.

Automatic Centre's Irene Chua & Don Benito Lim with Troy Montero.



Ceremonial masters Boy Abunda & Blanca Gonzales

Recognizing excellent performance. (L - R) Karen Ngo (Wellcare), Pamela Tiu (Anson's), Melanie Su (Star Appliance), Celso Villegas (Emcor), Geoffrey Lim (Automatic), Alfredo Llenes (X-Service) and Wilson Lim (Abenson)

TH-103PF9

...onic's 103-inch 1080 HD Plasma Display ...e world's largest Full HD Plasma TV

***..." PDP (TH-103PF9)***

*...he worlds biggest Full HD Plasma Display, the ...9. Like our 65", it has a resolution of 1920 x 1080 ...and has the capability of producing the highest ...quality in the market today. As we say, viewing ...nce just got bigger.*

***Resonating brilliance.***
*Panasonic's new audioentertainment system takes the spotlight as Jillian Lichauco, Home AV Specialist spearheaded the presentation for the new SC-NC6 and SC-NC9.*

***Sleek snapshots.***
*The new Lumix cameras project excellence in picture quality, highlighted in the presentation of John D. Sarmiento, Digital AV Specialist.*

***Viera madness.***
***Patrick Raz, Panasonic's Home AV Section Head, presents the new VIERA flat panel TVs that provide clear, vivid display and beautiful, high-resolution images for an ultimate viewing experience.***

***Creating Waves in Washing Technology.*** *Odie Osorio, Home Appliance Section Head, puts forward its plethora of washing machines and refrigerators that exhibits environment - friendly features and intelligent technology.*

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
**FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**
College, Laguna

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The **FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (FPRDI)** through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers/ Distributors and Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following Laboratory Equipment/Facilities:

| ITEMS | APPROVED BUDGET |
|---|---|
| 1 Unit Sound Reflection/ Absorption Testing Chamber Computer Aided | Php 900,000.00 |
| 1 Unit Universal Testing Machine with Computer Interface | Php 3.47 M |
| 1 Unit Automatic Digital Elmendorf Tear Tester | Php 1.03 M |
| 1 Lot Repair of Furniture Testing Lab | Php 150,000.00 |
| 1 Lot Repair of Beater/ Deinking Lab | Php 150,000.00 |
| 1 Lot Repair of Pulping & Bleaching Lab | Php 250,000.00 |

Location – Los Baños, Laguna
Total Contract Budget – Php 5.95 M
Contract Duration – 30 to 75 days
Delivery Period – December 28, 2007

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders on Oct. 22-31, 2007 at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, FPRDI, College, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee to the FPRDI Cashier.

The FPRDI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **WILFREDO M. AMERICA**
BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI–Oct. 19 & 26, 2007)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **DIVINE TEXTILE** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Knitted Fabrics** with a capacity of 2,938,250 kgs/ year on a **Non-Pioneer Status** with project/plant site located at 19 L. San Diego St., Canumay, Valenzuela City.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Oct. 19, 2007)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **MIGHTY TEXTILE INTERNATIONAL CORP.** with office/plant address located at **74 B Santiago Street, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Knitted Fabrics** on a **Non-Pioneer Status** with a capacity of **3,931,200 kgs. per year.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Oct. 19, 2007)

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **MAVERICKS EXPORTS, INC.** with office address located at **3-B Sunblest, Km. 23, West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an **Expanding Export Producer of Garments** on a **Non-Pioneer Status** with a capacity of **17,472 dozens per year** with project site located at **Villa Perpetua, Matatalaib, Tarlac, Tarlac City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – October 19, 2007)

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE**
**ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**
**OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
**Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City**

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

### Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the **CY 2007 Maintenance Repair Program,** intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

| Nomenclature/Activity | Approved Budget for the Contract | Date/Time | | Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Pre-Bid Conference | Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids | |
| **Lot-1** Structural Repair of DF-343 | Php 5,454,700.00 | October 25, 2007 9:00 AM | November 06, 2007, 9:00 AM | Php 3,000.00 |
| **Lot-2** Machinery Repair of DF-343 | Php 2,500,000.00 | | | Php 3,000.00 |
| Structure and other related repair of LT-507 | Php 9,547,000.00 | | | Php 3,000.00 |
| Drydocking and other related repair of LAKE BUHI (AF-78) | Php 12,600,000.00 | | | Php 6,000.00 |

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels.** Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM,*** **Monday** to **Friday.**
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1.* The method of payment will be *in the* ***form of cash.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***October 25, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***November 6, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. **Bid opening** shall be on ***November 6, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

***Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee***
*BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*
*Contact Person:* ***CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
*Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522*
*Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341*

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
**CAPT PN (GSC)**
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI--October 19, 2007)

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Branch Office
2nd Flr. Raintree Mall, Cebu City
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Website : www.reliablerecruitment.com

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8316712

Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-6626 to 29 • (632) 929-6252
929-6620 • 929-6633 to 35 • 929-7041 to 43

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Second Land Administration and Management Project**
**Loan No. 7298-PH**

**PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT**
**IFB No. LAMP 2 –ICB-G-01-2007 (Repackaged)**

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of the Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP 2), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Various Information Technology Equipment. The package is composed of two (2) lots as follows:

| Lot No. | Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | Computers and Peripherals |
| 2 | Printers and Scanners |

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of various Information Technology Equipment. The delivery period is within forty-five (45) calendar days from receipt of the Purchaser's Notice to Proceed (NTP).
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits,* and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Assistant Secretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from October 20 to December 5, 2007 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. Qualification requirements include technical, financial and legal documents such as: (i) Bidder's ongoing and completed contracts similar to the package for bidding; (ii) Bidder's audited financial statements; (iii) Manufacturer's authorization in case the Bidder is not the manufacturer or producer of the Goods it offers to supply; and (iv) authorized Philippine representative equipped and able to carry out maintenance, repair and spare parts stocking obligations for bidders not doing business within the Purchaser's country. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand (PhP 5,000.00) or in US Dollars One Hundred Fifty (US$ 150.00) excluding courier fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents will be sent either by airmail, surface mail or courier services.
7. The DENR BAC-FAPs will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 7, 2007 at 10:00 AM at FASPO Conference Room, FASPO Bldg., DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 NOON of December 5, 2007. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 1:00 PM of December 5, 2007.
9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in local currency or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency as follows:

| Lot No. | Description | Letter of Credit | Bank Guarantee |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lot 1 | Computers and Peripherals | PhP 156,321.47 | PhP 234,482.20 |
| Lot 2 | Printers and Scanners | PhP 104,390.00 | PhP 156,585.00 |

10. The address referred to above is:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects Secretariat
(BAC-FAPs Secretariat)
FASPO Building, DENR Compound
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone Nos. (632) 927-6755 (632) 929-6626 to 29 local 2055
Fax No. (632) 927-6755

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH**
Assistant Secretary and Chair,
Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects

(PDI - Oct. 19, 2007)

## ERRATUM

In the advertisement of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),** Procurement of Various Technology Equipment published on October 14, 2007, the date on Item No. 4 should have been **October 20, 2007** and not October 15, 2007 as published.

(PDI - Oct. 19, 2007)

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

## More Classified Ads


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Provincial Govt of Misamis Occidental | A8 | Provincial Govt. of Southern Leyte | B9 |
| Central Azucarera dela Carlota Inc. | A8 | | |
| COMELEC | A9 | DOLE-Region IV | B9 |
| PNOC – Energy Supply Base | B9 | DOLE-NCR | B9 |
| PNOC – On-Call Lighterage Services | B9 | IBM Solutions | B10 |


## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Mr. ANJILOU I. FLORES** is no longer connected with **MAGIS ACADEMY,** effective October 8, 2007.

**Mr. FLORES** (whose picture appears above) has been on **ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL).**

Any transactions entered into by the aforesaid person, for and on behalf of **MAGIS ACADEMY** will not be recognized.

*- MAGIS ACADEMY Administrative Office*

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 21, 2007)

## OBITUARIES

*"Come to Me and I will give you rest...."*

**ALFREDO V. JAVELOSA, SR.**

*peacefully joined our Creator and was reunited with our beloved Nanay on Oct. 15, 2007.*

Mass will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Hillsborough Alabang, Muntinlupa on Oct. 19, 2007, Friday, which would have been his 77th birthday.

We, his children, **Pinky, Ramon, Onyok, Gboy, Alma, Jiji, Joanne, Coy** and **Ram,** along with our spouses and children request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our tatay's ashes will be interred at the Loyola Memorial Gardens in Sucat, Parañaque on October 20, 2007 at 10:00 am.

*Only goodness and love*
*Pursued me all the days of my life;*
*I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*
*Psalms 23*

**ROSALIA CABALLERON IGNACIO**

**September 5, 1928 - October 15, 2007**

Child of God, wife, mother, grandmother, cousin, auntie, friend, an eternal blessing and angel to all.

*Peacefully joined her Creator on October 15, 2007 at the age of 79.*

Her loving husband **Atty. Agapito B. Ignacio** (†); children **Fay, Grace, Bong** and **Lucy, Danny** and **Baby;** grandchildren **Gerard, Angel, Danielle, David, Feliz** and **Denise;** great-grandchildren **Gabrielle** and **Jordan,** and all her relatives and friends request the readers to celebrate her life by continuing her legacy of love.

Her body lies in St. Peter Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, the 20th of October 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

## OBITUARIES

*So lovingly remembered on his 12th Death Anniversary*

**RAMON R. ANGELES, MD**

**Died October 19, 1995**

We ask all whose lives he has touched to keep his memory alive thru prayers.

Mass will be said for the eternal repose of his soul at the Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning on October 19, 2007 at 7:00 a.m.

# Moving malunggay

**By Ernesto M. Ordoñez**

COMMENTARY

OUR LAST TWO COMMENTARIES have elicited an enormously positive response. "The Miracle of Malunggay" talked about the many uses of malunggay and why it should get more funding support. "Malunggay Medicinal Magic" concentrated on the health benefits and recommended a national focal point to systematically deliver these benefits to the people.

But these are not sufficient. We must go from concept to action. We must "move malunggay" by having enough information, a clear picture of malunggay financials, and the appropriate organization with a malunggay master plan.

## Widespread information

Information on the basics of malunggay must be made known through media and other information networks, such as our elementary educational system. From the website: http://biotechforlife.com.ph/malunggay_biocommerce/, we should know the basics of malunggay.

For example, we should know that malunggay leaves may be cooked, dried and crushed into a powder that can be used as a food additive.

These are nutritious and contain significant amounts of Vitamins A and C, protein, iron and potassium.

Malunggay seeds, on the other hand, yield edible oil for cooking, lubrication and cosmetics.

The seed cake produced after oil extraction may also be used as fertilizer or as a medium for water purification.

The tree's bark, roots, flowers, leaves and seeds are commonly used in traditional medicine in several countries.

We should also know the following facts about propagating malunggay: The malunggay can be propagated from seeds and cuttings.

Mature seeds should be soaked in water for one day and planted 1 cm deep and 2 cm apart.

The seeds, watered lightly daily, should germinate within 15 days. Upon reaching 30 cm in height, the seedlings can be kept 10 cm apart.

Seedlings are ready to be planted as soon as they grow between 60 cm and 90 cm tall.

But the most convenient, and commercially attractive, proposition is to transform the malunggay leaves into powder.

The website, http://echotech.org/ states: "Dried leaves can be made into powder using mortar and pestle, local grain grinders, burr mills (hand crank or motor driven), or by simply rubbing the dried leaves against a fine screen. Once the dried leaves are transformed into a powder, the powder must be sifted to remove any stems."

This powder can then be added to any food or beverage to increase its vitamin, mineral and protein content. This is specially important for malnourished children, pregnant or lactating women, and the elderly.

## Financials

For malunggay to really move, there should be a clear picture of malunggay financials. Malunggay can be grown at minimal cost in one's own backyard.

It is a key ingredient of the very low cost Food Always In The Home (FAITH) project promoted by Dr. Florentino Solon, the Nutrition Center of the Philippines (NCP) president. For only a P30,000 NCP contribution, Solon can offer a FAITH implementation program for 30 barangays (09189175197).

For those interested in malunggay commercial production, it is worth noting that one can make a net operating income of between P635,580 and P1.235 million a hectare assuming there's a ready buyer.

Finally, the appropriate organization is needed to formulate and implement a national master plan for malunggay.

Aside from recommending that the national focal point be the DA's Biotechnology Program: Malunggay, under DA Director Alice Ilaga (09178439538), there should be a government-private sector malunggay task force.

This should be chaired preferably by a businessperson with a good track record in malunggay production.

With his or her reputation at stake, this person will be highly motivated to succeed.

However, it will still be the government that will be the primary provider of logistics that will help make malunggay move.

## Conclusion

To go from concept to action, the three elements are necessary: widespread information, a clear picture of malunggay's financials, and a government-private sector task force with a malunggay master plan.

Who knows? Successfully moving malunggay may even result in a malunggay movement that will address the twin problems of poverty and malnutrition.

*(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).*

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
**JFPR-SOUTHERN LEYTE LANDSLIDE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROJECT**
(An ADB Assisted Project, Funded by JFPR)
Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Telephone (053) 381-4546 and Fax Number: (053) 570-8475
E-mail Address: jfpr.slldap@gmail.com

**Construction of School Buildings**
**Grant No. 9102**

1. The Local Government Unit of the Province of Southern Leyte has received a Grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) thru the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Southern Leyte Landslide Disaster Assistance Project and it intends to apply part of this grant to payments under the contract for the Construction of School Buildings.
2. The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte thru the JFPR-SLLDAP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of the following school buildings, to wit:

| | Name of Contract | Location | Approved Budget Cost | Contract Duration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Three (3) Units Building<br>*Two (2) Classroom-Lanao Primary School*<br>*Two (2) Classroom-San Vicente Elem. School & Two (2) Classroom-Libas Nat'l. High School* | Bontoc & Sogod, Southern Leyte | Php 4,122,031.46 | 60 C.D. |
| 2. | Two (2) Units Building:<br>*Two (2) Classroom-Nava Nat'l High School & Two (2) Classroom-Hinunangan Nat'l. High School* | Hinunangan, Southern Leyte | Php 2,023,421.76 | 60 C.D. |
| 3. | Two (2) Units Building:<br>*Two (2) Classroom-Bongbong Elem. School & Two (2) Classroom-Esperanza Elem. School* | San Francisco, & San Ricardo, Southern Leyte | Php 2,731,120.88 | 60 C.D. |

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans."*
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.
5. Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Documents is on November 5, 2007 not later than 5:00 p.m. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from JFPR-SLLDAP/Provincial BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on October 19, 2007 to Oct. 31, 2007.
6. The JFPR-SLLDAP / Provincial's BAC will open the envelopes containing the Eligibility Documents in the presence of the prospective bidders' representatives who choose to attend on November 6, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., JFPR-SLLDAP, Project Implementing Unit Office, PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Eligible Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Five Thousand Pesos* (Php 5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before November 14, 2007.
8. The JFPR-SLLDAP/Provincial BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2007 at the following address: JFPR-SLLDAP, Project Implementing Unit Office, PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte.
9. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before November 22, 2007, 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security either in the form of Cashier's or Certified Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Unconditional Bank Guarantee equivalent to 2.5% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on November 22, 2007 at the JFPR-SLLDAP, PIU Office PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00 a.m.
9. The JFPR-SLLDAP/Provincial BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*JFPR-SLLDAP*
*VIRGINIA LIM CRUZ / Project Director*
*PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte*
*Tel. No. (053) 570-8475*
*Fax (053) 381-4546*
*Email jfpr.slldap@gmail.com*

(Sgd.) ATTY. TOBIAS M. AGUILAR
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 19, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292

October 19, 2007

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

| Name and Address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship | Position |
|---|---|---|
| 1. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Kazumasa Atsumi/ Japanese | Advisor |
| 2. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Yoshiaki Takada/ Japanese | Advisor |
| 3. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Toru Hasegawa/ Japanese | Director for HR/ General Affairs & Finance |
| 4. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Shinsuke Yamaura/ Japanese | Treasurer |
| 5. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Atsushi Suzuki/ Japanese | Service Section Head |
| 6. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Takahisa Suzuki/ Japanese | Production Department Manager |
| 7. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Hirotaka Komeda/ Japanese | Purchase Section Head |
| 8. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr. Yukio Fukada/ Japanese | Parts Section Head |
| 9. YAMAHA MOTOR PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna | Mr.Takeshi Yano/ Japanese | President |
| 10. DAITOH PRECISIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC. FPIP, Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas | Mr. Yuji Haji/ Japanese | Sales & Marketing Manager |
| 11. GOODSCOUR PADS MANUFACTURING, INC. Bo. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite | Mr. Hsiu-Chen Hsu/ Taiwanese | Vice President & Treasurer |
| 12. HANKUK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. Brgy. San Luis, Antipolo City | Ms. Zhen Yang/ Chinese | Teacher |
| 13. WARTSILA PHILIPPINES, INC. LISP I, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna | Mr. Bjorn August Mattsson/ Finnish | Service Sales Manager |

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI–October 19, 2007)

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**PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION**
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID**

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2007, intends to apply the sum of Php296,781,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES** (herein referred to as the "Project"). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids for the Project from eligible bidders. The contract duration for the Project is one (1) year.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB)shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting October 19, 2007 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Pesos: Two Thousand Five Hundred (Php2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 26, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at the PNOC EC Head Office, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M.** on **November 8, 2007**. The bids including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph, in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **Chairman**
**Bids and Awards Committee**

(PDI–October 19, 2007)

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**PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION**
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614/Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2007, intends to apply the sum of Php3,920,160.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **SECURITY SERVICES OF PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION (PNOC EC) ENERGY SUPPLY BASE** (the "Project") located at Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **SECURITY SERVICES OF PNOC EC ENERGY SUPPLY BASE**. The contract duration for the Project is one (1) year.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterias specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting October 19, 2007 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Pesos: Two Thousand (Php2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 30, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at the PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M.** on **November 12, 2007**. The bids including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at **www.pnoc-ec.com.ph**, in the DBM website at **www.procurementservice.net.**

(Sgd.) The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–October 19, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**
**National Capital Region**
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

| Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship | Position |
|---|---|---|
| NJ WORLD TRADING CORPORATION<br>3/F Linsangan Admiral T. Bldg., 1225 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila | Won Kyun Chung<br>Korean | Engineer Technician |
| POWER G-FORCE NET INC.<br>1851 J.Bocobo St., Malate, Manila | Joung Bong Park<br>Korean | General Manager |
| HAUZEN TOUR & TRAVEL CORP.<br>2822 Coretown Bldg., P. Celle St. cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City | Junghoon Oh<br>Korean | Assistant Operation Manager |
| SYKES ASIA INC.<br>26/F Robinsons Summit Building, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Kang Hee Lee<br>Korean | Korean Client Support |
| THE THOMSON (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION<br>20/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Hee Jin Sohn<br>Korean | Corporate Services Associate |
| I-MERGE ONLINE, INC.<br>7480 Bagtikan St. cor. Sacred Heart Ext., San Antonio Vill., Makati City | Hirokazu Noda<br>Japanese | System Consultant |
| I-MERGE ONLINE, INC.<br>7480 Bagtikan St. cor. Sacred Heart Ext., San Antonio Vill., Makati City | Yuta Imaizumi<br>Japanese | Sales and Marketing Consultant |
| CHINA CHAMPION GROUP PHILS. INT'L., INC.<br>519-A Dr. Joz Perez Ave., Las Piñas City | Junpeng Chen<br>Chinese | Supervisor |
| CHINA CHAMPION GROUP PHILS. INT'L., INC.<br>519-A Dr. Joz Perez Ave., Las Piñas City | Zhenzhen Cai<br>Chinese | Asst. Supervisor |
| CHINA CHAMPION GROUP PHILS. INT'L., INC.<br>519-A Dr. Joz Perez Ave., Las Piñas City | Zhiyao Lu<br>Chinese | Merchandizing Supervisor |
| 24HRS CAR CENTER CORP.<br>8418 Dr. A. Santos Rd., Parañaque City | Sang Hoon Choi<br>Korean | Manager |
| APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES, INC.<br>Northgate Cyberzone Filinvest Corp. City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City | Shelly M Manka<br>American | eWitness Administrator |
| MIGYEONG DEVELOPMENT & TRADING INC.<br>27th Perth St., BF Thai International, BF Homes, Parañaque | Yunchang Seol<br>Korean | Marketing Manager |
| GURTI LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING CO.<br>444-A Constancia St., Sampaloc, Manila | Deepak Aswani<br>Indian | Company Collector |
| THREE-J LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING CO.<br>3-E Sunday Homes Artiaga St., San Juan City | Gurjeet Singh<br>Indian | Company Collector |
| GURTI LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING CO.<br>444-A Constancia St., Sampaloc, Manila | Rajni Bala<br>Indian | Cashier |
| THREE-J LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING CO.<br>3-E Sunday Homes Artiaga St., San Juan City | Chetandeep Singh<br>Indian | Company Collector |
| THREE-J LENDING INVESTOR & TRADING CO.<br>3-E Sunday Homes Artiaga St., San Juan City | Parmdeep Singh<br>Indian | Purchaser |
| SOKHAL LENDING & TRADING CORP.<br>5-D Gov. A. Pascual St., Sipac, Navotas, Metro Manila | Rajwant Kaur<br>Indian | Stock Clerk |
| SOKHAL LENDING & RADING CORP.<br>5-D Gov. A. Pascual St., Sipac, Navotas, Metro Manila | Parminder Singh<br>Indian | Company Collector |
| SOKHAL LENDING & TRADING CORP.<br>5-D Gov. A. Pascual St., Sipac, Navotas, Metro Manila | Sukhpal Singh Gahir<br>Indian | Company Collector |
| TCL SUN, INC.<br>Rm. 1901 Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City | Kui Liu<br>Chinese | Finance Manager |
| KOK MING TRADING LTD. CO.<br>U-707, 550 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila | Lina Huang<br>Chinese | Assistant Manager |
| KOK MING TRADING LTD. CO.<br>U-707, 550 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila | Zehuang Hou<br>Chinese | Consultant |
| KOK MING TRADING LTD. CO.<br>U-707, 550 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila | Zhide Pan<br>Chinese | Supervisor |
| KOK MING TRADING LTD. CO.<br>U-707, 550 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila | Liangpai Hou<br>Chinese | Supervisor |
| TURTLESHIP TRADING CORP.<br>M.S.B.F. Compound, Edsa cor. Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City | Minwoong An<br>Korean | Marketing Manager |
| SHI XIAN TRADING<br>1015 Soler St., Binondo, Manila | Shihong Shi<br>Chinese | Consultant |

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI – October 19, 2007)

# Retired Napocor plant in Manila attracts 12 prospective bidders

## Inclusion of land makes package attractive to investors

By Abigail L. Ho

TWELVE COMPANIES, INCLUding two real estate developers, have expressed interest to bid for the retired 200-megawatt (MW) Manila Thermal Power Plant of National Power Corp.

Froilan Tampinco, vice president for asset management and electricity trading at the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., said the inclusion in the sale of the land on which the asset stood made Manila Thermal more attractive to potential investors.

PSALM published two weeks ago a bid invitation for the retired plant, which is scheduled for bidding on Dec. 19.

In the bid invitation, PSALM said the retired plant would be sold on an "as is, where is" basis. The package includes the plant equipment, auxiliaries and accessories, as well as the underlying land.

Interested bidders were given until Oct. 10 to submit their letters of interest (LOIs). They also had to execute a confidentiality agreement and undertaking, as well as pay a nonrefundable fee of $500 on or before Oct. 12.

PSALM would only issue the bidding documents to those that would be able to meet these requirements.

Tampinco said 12 entities, including two real estate developers, were able to meet the deadline. He, however, declined to name the prospective bidders.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on Oct. 24.

PSALM said the two-hectare land included in the package was located in a prime area in Paco, Manila, which was near SM Manila and other commercial centers. Its size was also ideal for industrial purposes.

Since the plant was already decommissioned, PSALM expected potential bidders to come from the construction and steel manufacturing businesses.

Entities interested in the scrap value of Manila Thermal's equipment, component auxiliaries and accessories were also expected to participate in the bidding, PSALM added.

The retired Napocor power plant was first auctioned off in the first quarter of 2005, but this was declared a failure due to lack of investor interest. The second bidding in the last quarter of 2006 suffered the same fate.

Should the third round of bidding fail again, PSALM said it would tap a third-party auctioneer to sell the plant.

The auctioneer would provide PSALM with a comprehensive asset disposal service, involving the formulation of an appropriate sale strategy and methodology, not only for Manila Thermal, but for the rest of Napocor's decommissioned plants.

# Sale of state assets seen to raise ₱80B in '08

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXpecting to raise P80 billion from the privatization of state-owned assets next year.

This is seen to boost the government's chances of posting a balanced budget next year, after being in the red for 10 years.

The amount is a big improvement from the original target of P30 billion for 2008.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the state-owned assets lined up for sale next year included a 24-percent stake in San Miguel Corp., 12-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., the 500-hectare property now housing the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City, real property in Fujimi, Japan, the 100-hectare property housing Food Terminals Inc. in Taguig, City, and the government's stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC).

"We (the Department of Finance) expect to raise P80 billion from the sale of these assets next year, though we are also working on improving tax collection to achieve a balanced budget," Teves told reporters.

The government's equity stakes in SMC and Meralco were originally slated for sale this year, but privatization officials decided to defer the sale to next year.

Finance officials said it was not practical to sell the said government's shares in SMC and Meralco when the stock market was still volatile due to the US subprime woes.

The government sold its 46-percent stake in Philippine Telecommunication Investments Corp. (PTIC) early this year for P25.2 billion, and raised another P16.6 billion from the sale of 20 percent of its stake in PNOC-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC). The sale of the old Ilo-Ilo airport property generated another P1.2 billion.

The projected privatization earnings of P80 billion next year, if realized, will help the government achieve the goal of raising P1.236 trillion in total revenues to cover the P1.236 trillion in programmed expenditures.

Government efforts to achieve a balanced budget position next year were closely watched by investors and credit rating agencies. The attainment of this target is expected to give a boost to the country's credit ratings, which are still below investment grade.

*Michelle V. Remo*

# *Finance eyes review of sin tax structure*

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FInance is supporting a Senate proposal calling for a review of the viability of further increasing the excise tax slapped on cigarettes.

The DOF said in a position paper that the scheduled increase in cigarette tax, as embodied in the Sin Tax Law of 2005 or Republic Act No. 9334, was much slower than the rate of increases in the prices of tobacco products.

Ideally, cigarettes are levied an excise tax to discourage excessive consumption. But the DOF said a minimal increase would not fulfill that objective and the goal of boosting government revenues.

"For as long as the tax component does not grow as fast as inflation, the excise tax becomes less effective in terms of the value of its collections and as an instrument to curb consumption of tobacco products," the DOF said in the paper submitted to the Senate.

RA 9334 mandates an 8-percent increase in the excise tax on cigarettes every two years starting 2005 and ending in 2011. The DOF noted, however, that from 2005 to 2007, the prices of cigarettes rose by an average of 12.4 percent.

The government has yet to see the law's positive impact on revenue collection. In the first half of the year, cigarette taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue reached only P11.05 billion, down 19.7 percent from P13.71 billion in the same period last year.

The DOF said the Philippines still had the lowest excise tax rates in Southeast Asia despite the implementation of RA 9334. It said there could be some more room for increases in cigarette tax.

The DOF said excise taxes on cigarettes in the Philippines range from only $2.42 to $29.28 per 1,000 sticks. In Malaysia, the rate is $23.29; Brunei, $39.3, and Singapore, $192.56.

The proposal to review the tax structure on cigarettes came from Sen. Gregorio Honasan, through Senate Resolution No. 122.

Honasan cited a report of the Department of Health which said that the P26 billion in cigarette taxes collected by the government was not enough to cover health-care spending of patients inflicted with tobacco-related ailments.

He said treatment of tobacco-related ailments cost about P27 billion a year, while the economy loses another P18 billion in potential productivity a year due to early deaths associated with smoking.

Honasan also proposed a study on imposing a uniform excise tax rate to replace the current tax structure for cigarettes.

The present structure provides for four tax brackets which are based on the prices.

# Senate awaits DOF move on cigar tax row

THE SENATE PLANS TO SUMmon Finance Secretary Margarito Teves unless he makes a timely and definitive ruling over a controversial decision downgrading the tax classification of an imported cigarette which could cause massive revenue losses for the government.

Sen. Francis Escudero, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said in a press conference that Teves should explain Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza's ruling, which reduced the excise tax on Pall Mall from P25 to P6.74 per pack. Teves has until the end of this month to decide on the issue before the Senate steps in.

Escudero believes that if ever there is tax reclassification, "it should be higher, not lower." It was learned that the reclassification would cost government some P100 million in revenue losses annually.

He said he would first give Teves a chance to decide on the issue before he would be summoned to a Senate investigation. "We will give them [DOF] the first crack to rule on this issue before we enter the fray," Escudero said.

In a related development, British American Tobacco (BAT), the world's second largest cigarette manufacturer, has expressed support for initiatives to review the current excise tax system on cigarettes to even the playing field and increase government revenues from sin taxes.

In a statement, BAT Philippines general manager Jeremy Flint said the Philippines was lagging behind other markets in terms of tobacco excise revenues as a percentage of total revenue collections.

"Given the potential to further increase its tobacco excise revenues, a review of the prevailing excise tax system in the Philippines may be in order," Flint said.

In a letter to the Senate committee on ways and means, BAT said it was "prepared to support initiatives that would allow the Philippine government to further optimize its revenues from cigarette excise taxes."

In his letter, Flint explained the circumstances behind the current controversy on the classification of Pall Mall.

"Pall Mall, from the time of its introduction to the market in 2004, has always been a mid-price brand paying the excise tax applicable to that bracket. It was only on Feb. 22, 2007 when the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued a ruling that sought to classify it as a premium brand subject to an excise tax of P26.06 per pack. BAT considered it to be an incorrect ruling, and therefore availed of its legal right as a taxpayer to appeal the ruling with the DOF, which then issued a decision on July 24, 2007 sustaining BAT's position," Flint said.

# Gov't receives ₱17B in dividends, fees

STATE-OWNED FIRMS CONtributed more than P17 billion in revenue to the state coffers in the first nine months of the year, the Department of Finance said.

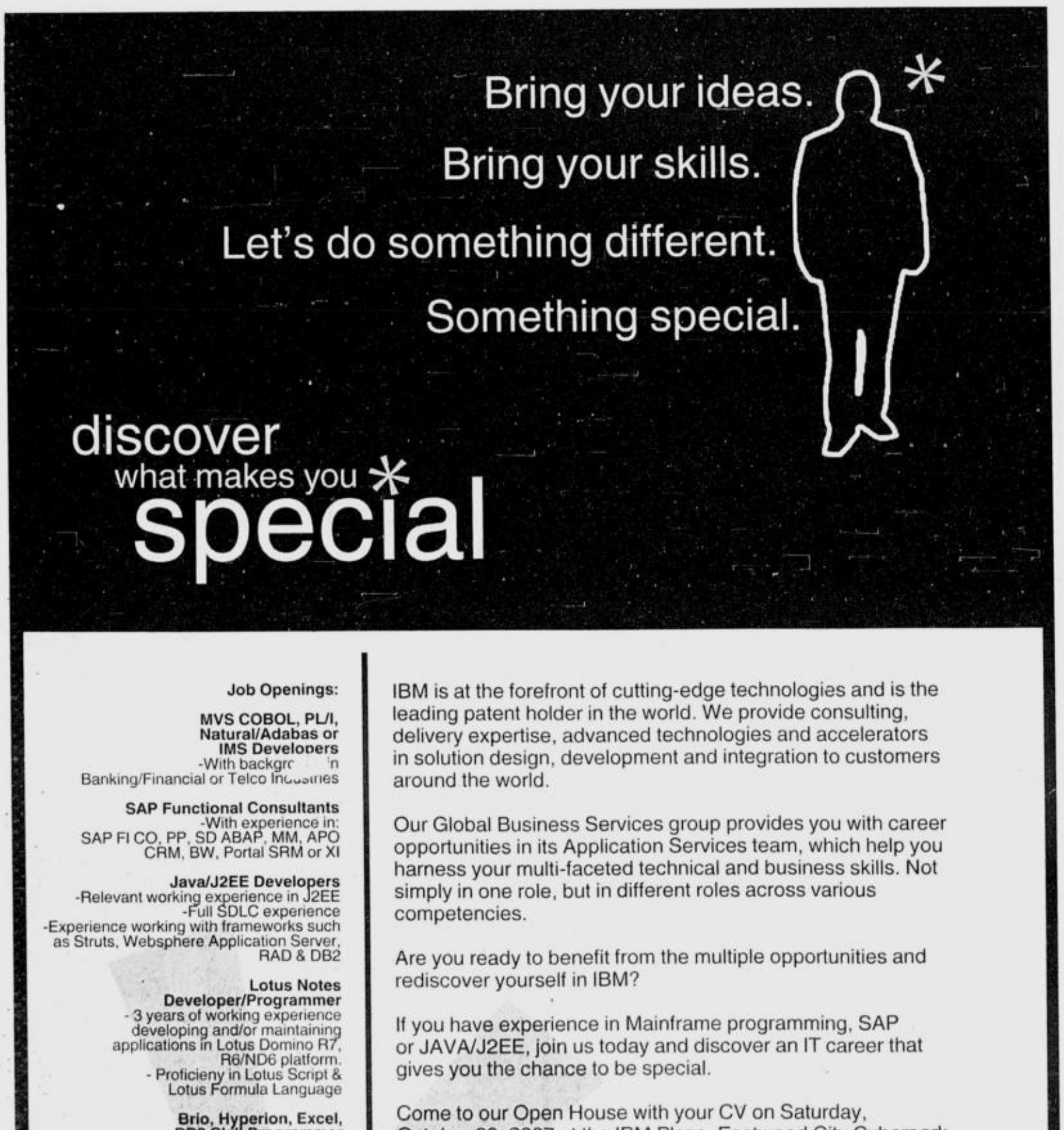
Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr. said government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) remitted P8.84 billion in dividends to the national government and paid P8.64 in guarantee fees.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine National Oil Co. were the biggest contributors of dividends at P2.2 billion each. The Philippine Ports Authority remitted P1.37 billion, while Land Bank of the Philippines contributed P1 billion.

The charters of most state-owned firms require them to remit at least 50 percent of their incomes to the national government as dividends. Guarantee fees are imposed on GOCCs and GFIs that incur loans that are guaranteed by the national government.

Paul said the DOF had intensified efforts to collect guarantee fees and dividends from state-owned firms to instill financial discipline in them. GOCCs and GFIs were asked to help the national government achieve the goal of wiping out its budget deficit.

The finance official said the original collection targets were only P1.9 billion in guarantee fees and P4 billion in dividends from state-owned firms for the entire year. *Michelle V. Remo*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Editor Aries Espinosa

# Rid body of nicotine to quit smoking

CIGARETTE SMOKING IS, MORE often, nicotine addiction than a pastime habit. Because of this, you need to consult and/or see a doctor when you're kicking off the habit. Cold turkey, while commendable, happens in very rare cases.

In the Philippines, smoking, by far, is the most common health risk factor with a prevalence of 12.1 percent among women and 56.3 percent among men, according to the National Nutrition and Health Survey by the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine May to June 2005 issue. The journal further revealed that smoking kills nearly 5 million people worldwide each year. 20,000 Filipinos die every year due to tobacco-related diseases. Smoking likewise accounts for more than 85 percent of lung cancer deaths. Moreover, smokers are more likely to develop emphysema compared to nonsmokers.

## Smoking-related deaths

Globally, in the year 2003 alone, the estimated number of deaths due to smoking showed a total of 56 percent coronary-related deaths and 57 percent of stroke/cardiovascular related deaths as reported in the 2004 Lancet Journal, Interheart Study Investigators.

Yet, unbeknownst to many, smoking is the single most preventable health crisis of all. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) can be one option. One of the oldest existing therapies to quit smoking, this option comes in six formulations: gum, patch, oral inhaler, nasal spray, sublingual tablet and lozenge. NRT provides the nicotine previously obtained from cigarettes but without exposure to their carcinogens and other toxic substances. By helping to reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms, NRT may also allow smokers to function while they learn to live without cigarettes. Your doctor can advise you of other options available in the market today.

Nicotine addiction from cigarette smoking is a chronic, relapsing condition. Although some individuals quit successfully after their first attempt, most continue to smoke cigarettes for many years, trying repeatedly to stop but typically suffering a relapse after a short time.

## Withdrawal symptoms

Withdrawal symptoms can impair social, occupational and other functions. Like other chronic disorders, smoking should be addressed through counseling, behavioral support and appropriate drug therapy. In addition to overcoming craving and withdrawal symptoms, smokers must also overcome another barrier to a successful quitting attempt, that is, the environmental stimuli that are associated with smoking. As an adage aptly puts it, "Misery loves company."

There is a new treatment option that is available for smoking cessation. Learn about this from your doctor today. You'll be amazed at how science has addressed this predicament.

Smoking cessation has also been shown to reduce the risk of cancers of the larynx, oral cavity, esophagus, pancreas and urinary bladder. To truly appreciate how

nicotine hooks smokers, a health journal describes the cycle thus: Nicotine is rapidly absorbed during cigarette smoking and produces its physiological and behavioral effects

by binding to nicotinic acetycholine receptors in the brain. Nicotine binding leads to neuronal depolarization, with subsequent generation of nerve impulses that release dopamine in the nucleus accumbens-the brain's "reward" center. Dopamine produces a sensation of pleasure and perceived calm.

## Half life

The half-life of nicotine is only about two hours, so between cigarettes, dopamine levels in the reward center gradually decline, prompting symptoms of withdrawal, such as irritability, restlessness, feeling miserable and difficulty concentrating. By providing nicotine, the next cigarette relieves these symptoms and again gives rise to pleasure and calm. This vicious cycle continues as each cigarette rewards smoking behavior.

With medical intervention, the woes of smokers to quit can be finally actualized. After all, quitting smoking is the most beneficial way to improve every smoker's health.

Visit your doctor and/or health professional today and get a learned lowdown on how to effectively say goodbye to cigarette smoking.

**PRINT AND GRAPHICS EXPERT IN FUJI XEROX SEMINAR**

Fuji Xerox recently brought to the Philippines world-renowned printing and graphics industry expert Harry Waldman for the 'Growing your Print Business-A Roadmap to Volume and Sales Growth' seminar. Waldman, joined by his wife, communications expert Nadine Pellegrino, shared techniques on how to increase sales, grow volume and profit through digital solution selling. The seminar was organized for the Filipino printing industry by Fuji Xerox Philippines in its continuing efforts to bring the latest trends and technologies in digital printing to the Philippines. Shown (from left) are Fuji Xerox Philippines executives Arnold Ablaza, AVP/marketing head; Romy Serrano, president: Armi Liu-Dilao, production systems business AVP/head; and Fuji Xerox international business group marketing communications and training GM Jennie Leech with main speaker Harry Waldman.

**SPEECH AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

SPEAC (Speech, Personality and Creative Arts Centre) held a series of seminars on Verbal Skills and Social Graces for therapists of Le Petit Paradis located in scenic Tagaytay City. The 3-day training concluded with a special group presentation and an actual fine dining experience for the trainees. SPEAC employs a 'learning by doing approach' and provides lots of practical exercises to enrich one's vocabulary and develop English conversation fluency. SPEAC offers workshops and seminars on Corporate Image, English Conversation, Powerful Presentation, Social Graces, Business Etiquette and Visual Poise for individuals and corporate groups. Shown is founder/lecturer Rowena M. Beloso with workshop participants. For more information, call or text 0915-8269931 or 752-8540 (look for Weng).

**ASI'S EVENING OF 'MUSIC, MAGIC, LUGAW++'**

Shown are images of the recent Asian Social Institute's evening of 'Music, Magic, Lugaw++' at the Makati Skyline, World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The event featured singers Enrique Marcos, Sofia Mozo, Street Magic Performer, Lei Sarmiento, Musical Ensemble and Arquis String Quartet, and Ambassadors of Vietnam and Cambodia, respectively, and Dr. Mina M. Ramirez, president of ASI. ASI, founded 45 years ago by Rev. Fr. Francis Senden, CICM, is an Asian graduate school of the social sciences of transformative praxis towards justice, peace and integrity of creation, on Leon Guinto Street, Manila. ASI may be reached at 523-3483, 523-8265 to 66, fax 526-6155 or log on to www.asinet-online.org.

**ANANDA HOTEL, FUEGO HOTELS SIGN CONTRACT**

The recent contract signing of Widus International Leisure Inc and Fuego Hotel and Properties Management Inc for the new premiere hotel in Clark, named Ananda Hotel, is this year's biggest hotel deal made inside the special economic zone. Present in the contract signing were (from right) Fuego Hotels & Properties Management director for business development Susan Salcedo, managing director Alfredo Roca, president and owner of Widus International Leisure Inc Daesik Han, and executive assistant to the president Maricar Manaloto. Ananda Hotel, which is scheduled to open December 2007, will be the new haven in Clark Free Port Zone. Designed to provide ultimate vacation experience for the whole family, Ananda will also be the home of Widus Vacation Club. The Widus Vacation Club is Widus International's timeshare program where club members get to own a unit from Ananda's remarkable hotel, studio, one-bedroom, suite and two bedroom units. With Fuego Hotels & Properties Management Corp's expertise, guests are ensured that Ananda will give a luxurious and friendly atmosphere! For more information about the many exciting offerings of Fuego Hotels' managed and operated properties, call 750-1999 or e-mail guests@fuegohotels.com. Log on to www.fuegohotels.com.

# Creative ZEN: Huge array of features in tiny design

THIS IS THE NEW CREATIVE ZEN at a glance. Decked out in an all-black suit, the Creative ZEN is smaller than your average credit card and sits snugly right in your palm. With an attractive 11.3mm thickness, this sleek player weighs a mere 65g, allowing you to carry it around easily.

It is also one of the lightest players around that is able to boast a capacity of up to 8GB while supporting different popular media formats. What's more, you can add as much capacity as you want with its SD memory expansion slot. With its patented ZEN user interface which offers more information to be viewed on the screen, navigating through mass content is simply a breeze. You can even accessorize this pint-sized dynamo with optional accessories such as the ZEN Leather Case or the ZEN Skin Pack.

Celebrate the arrival of the latest revolution on the portable player scene. Welcome the Creative ZEN. Get magically lost in the brilliant 2.5" screen with 16.7 million TFT color support which displays sharp and richly saturated pictures.

Listen to your music in multiple supported formats. With support for MP3, WMA as well as non-protected AAC (.m4a) from iTunes Plus, sync your player to enjoy all your favorite hits today.

Increase the size of your portable media library with an external SD/SDHC card. Enjoy that much more videos, music and photos today!

The patented ZEN user interface offers a fresh new look for a more stunning visual experience. You can even create and customize your very own wallpaper on your Creative ZEN player.

Switch to the integrated FM radio when you need to catch the latest on the music scene. Take your pick from the 32 preset stations.

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Get more playback time with the built-in rechargeable battery. Enjoy up to 25 hours of music or five hours of movies.

**WORKING BEE IN DOLE SAFETY SUMMIT IN CEBU**

Working Bee, one of the country's leading personal protective equipment (PPE) distributors, participated as one of the exhibitors in this year's 1st Visayan Summit on Occupational Safety & Health organized by the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Center (OSHC) held at the Marco Polo Hotel in Cebu City Oct. 11 and 12. The two-day event focused on the priorities for the promotion of occupational safety and health concerns and practices in the Visayan region. As an exhibitor and in support to its current Cebu distributor, Working Bee also displayed its new and upcoming PPEs which is due for launching this November. Working Bee is exclusively distributed by Fairex Trading (Asia) Corp, a member of the Magsaysay Group of Companies.

**SHOEMART REGISTERS IT BUILDING WITH PEZA**

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) Director General Lilia B. de Lima signs the registration agreement with Josefino Lucas, executive vice president of Shoemart Inc, for the firm to establish, develop, construct, administer, manage and operate a 119,261-sqm land located at the SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City into an information technology park to be known as SM iCity 2. Looking on is Noel Sanchez, SM assistanr vice president.

# Housing fair II set at SM Megamall

DUE TO INSISTENT DEMAND FROM THE government and private sector employees, Vice President and Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Noli 'Kabayan' De Castro announced recently that the Housing Fair held in October last year will have a repeat and will be held yearly thereafter.

With the theme "Serbisyong Tapat, Abot-Kayang Pabahay para sa Lahat", the Fair will be held from Oct. 23 to 25 at the Megatrade Hall 1 of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Participating in this year's Fair are the housing agencies-Home Guaranty Corp, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp, National Housing Authority, Pag-Ibig Fund and Social Housing Finance Corp.

The Vice President said that some 40,000 foreclosed properties and acquired assets of the participating agencies would be offered to both public and private sector employees including overseas Filipino workers.

"The units have an interest rate of as low as 6 percent per annum, and the repayment period is as long as 30 years," the Vice President said.

The complete list of foreclosed properties on sale will be made available at the foyer of Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, SM Megamall Building B during the Fair. For more information, interested parties may call 812-6495.

# BUSINESS

# Metal output value up

By Amy R. Remo

THE VALUE OF METAL PRODUCTION surged by 59 percent in the first half to P39.42 billion from P24.83 billion in the same period last year.

DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Horacio C. Ramos said gold output accounted for P19.3 billion of the value of total metal production, followed by nickel with P15.46 billion and copper with P3.67 billion.

Silver, zinc and chromite producers accounted for a combined P970.38 million.

"The continued increase in metal prices in the world market continues to be the primary reason for the growth in the country's metal production value," Ramos said in a statement.

Average metal prices in the international market during the first six months remained high with nickel prices increasing by 158 percent to $20.31 a pound from $7.88 a pound in the same period last year.

As a result, the value of local nickel production soared by 318 percent in the first half on the back of a 174-percent increase in production volume.

Total production as of June grew to 2.81 million dry metric tons, surpassing the 1.02 million dry metric tons posted in the same period last year.

Total nickel production value, meanwhile, hit P8.73 billion during the first half, up P6.64 billion from the P2.09 billion posted in the same period last year.

Leading nickel producers include Cagdianao Mining Corp., Hinatuan Mining Corp. (South Diangat and Taganaan Projects), Rio Tuba Mining Corp. and Taganito Mining Corp.

Ramos added that the entry of Berong Nickel Corp. to the production stream and the resumption of the operations of Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. also made a great impact to this "sterling performance."

Silver, gold and copper prices also rose during the period by 21.35 percent, 11.61 percent and 10.99 percent, respectively.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said the "stunning performance of the metal sector further boosts government projections of a significant turnaround this year in terms of investment inflows and production value."

"We are making good progress in terms of investments coming in from priority projects, which, as of the first half have already reached $879 million," Atienza said.

The government had initially projected that metal production value would reach about $1.35 billion or roughly P62 billion this year.

It had likewise targeted investments inflows to breach the $1-billion mark by the end of the year.

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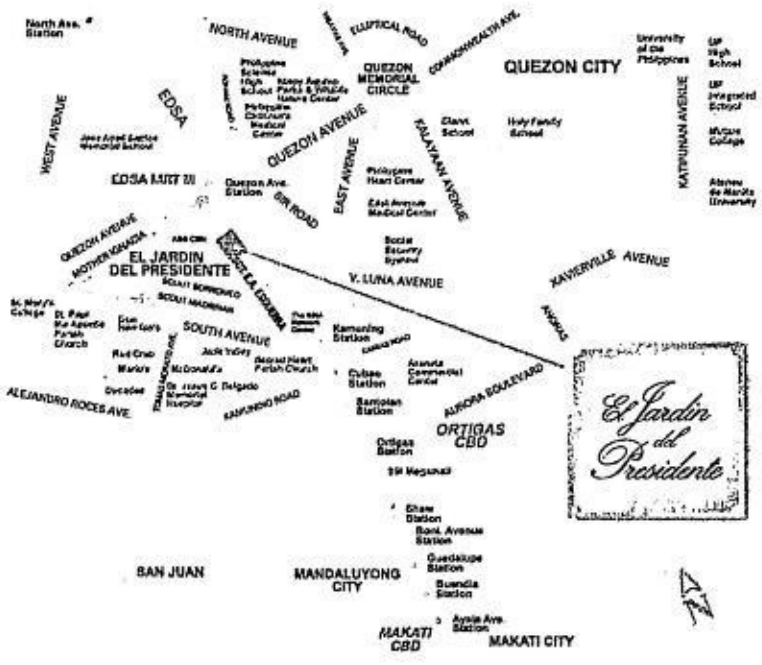

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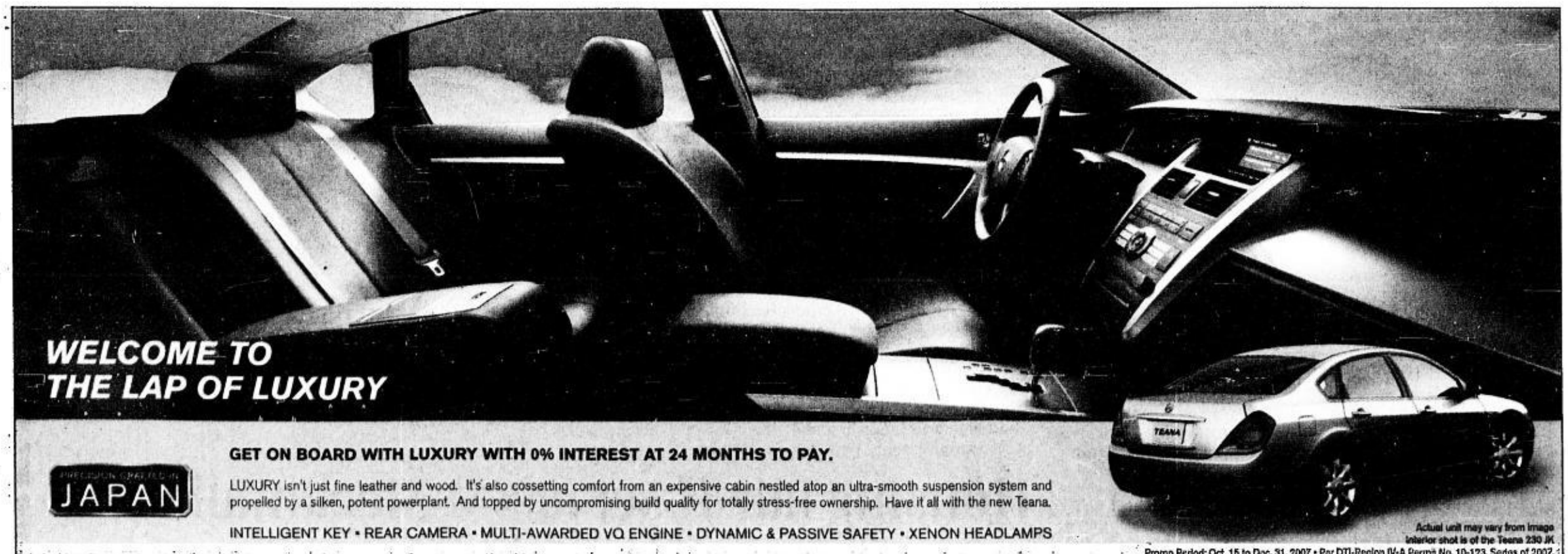


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Actual unit may vary from image. Interior shot is of the Teana 230 JM.

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# Pilferage constant threat to retailers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

AS IF KEEPING THAT COMPETITIVE EDGE isn't hard enough amid an increasingly crowded market, retailers in the Philippines also have to contend with the ever-present possibility of losing part of their sales to theft and pilferage.

For while retailers are wise to the moves of criminal syndicates and the occasional errant employee and have put in place the necessary controls to keep losses to a minimum, they cannot afford to be complacent.

As some of the leading retail firms in the Philippines relate in separate discussions, syndicates always find another way of breaking down the systems to cart away goods worth thousands of pesos.

## A step ahead

Thus, it is up to the retailers to always keep one step ahead. Three retail firms featured here show how they strive to do just that.

Roel Chan, brand manager of the Primer group of companies, which runs the North Face and Bratpack retail chain in the Philippines, says in an interview that pilferage attacks come from inside and outside the company.

To keep pilferage traced to employees as low as possible, he says Primer has put in place a variety of measures. These include rotating the cashiers and the sales personnel to prevent them from conniving with each other to steal, conducting regular audits and inventory checks, and filing cases against those who have broken the rules.

Still, Primer, which has been in the distribution and retail business for 20 years, is hit by internal theft about two to three times a year.

It may sound small, but then Primer sells big-ticket items (cheapest item goes for P800 or $18), which means that the loss of just one bag worth thousands of pesos will hurt sales.

Primer has also invested in door alarms as another deterrent, although only 80 percent of its 60 outlets—with brand names North Face, Columbia and Bratpack—have them.

But Chan says that what Primer is really guarding against is when employees victimize the customers.

He cites cases where unscrupulous employees charge unknowing customers twice for an item so that they can keep the other one.

And since this is usually done to foreigners on their way out of the country, they usually get away with it because the foreigners are not going back to the country just to complain. "Our policy now is for all credit card swiping to be done in the presence of the customer so that they can check for themselves," Chan says.

SURESH

GABRIELE PHOTOS BY JEROME DUMLAO

He says this type of credit card fraud is usually done in high-end malls that rich Filipinos frequent.

## Training the staff

Chan adds that Primer invests in the training of sales personnel for them to be extra vigilant of the customers, and to keep watch on items, especially those near the shop window, which are prone to theft.

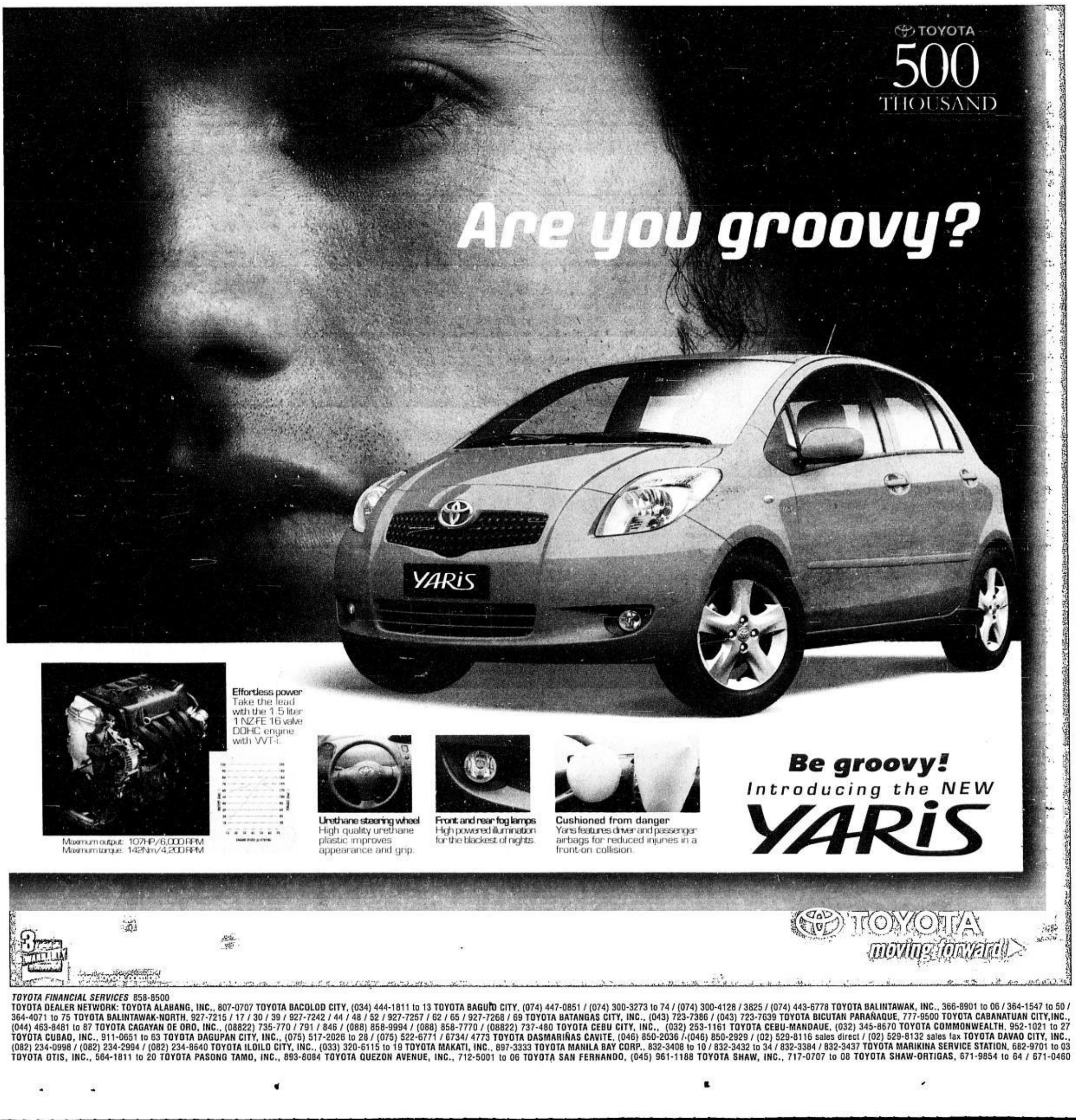
He says that fortunately, losses due to pilferage, whether from inside or outside of the company, are kept to below 5 percent of total sales.

"I think losses to 5 percent of sales are still acceptable. Anything beyond that is alarming," he says.

He adds the banks and the Philippine Retailers Association have been valuable to retailers like Primer because they regularly inform them of the latest modus operandi, so they will know what to watch out for.

Gabriele G. Boschi, who heads the company that distributes the Rudy Project eyewear, bags and apparel, says the store layout plays a key role in preventing theft in its 19

PILFERAGE/ B2-3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007

# People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

## Smart, Bamboo renew partnership

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC (Smart), the country's leading wireless services provider, recently announced the renewal of its partnership with the biggest, most popular group in today's Pinoy rock music scene, Bamboo. The multi-awarded band, composed of vocalist Bamboo Mañalac, guitarist Ira Cruz, bassist Nathan Azarcon, and drummer Vic Mercado, is on its third year of endorsing Smart Buddy.

Bamboo is widely credited for the resurgence of Pinoy rock music in the last few years, and is known for creating songs, heavily laced with themes of patriotism and longing for change, that speak vividly to the youth, such as "Noypi" and "Hallelujah".

Smart Buddy is the prepaid brand of Smart which makes high-quality wireless services and cutting-edge features readily available and easily accessible to the youth. It is known to encourage youth entrepreneurship; promote camaraderie and bonding through good, clean fun at well-attended events and activities; and offer opportunities for the discovery of youth talent from all over the country. "This is how we see our band completely aligned with Smart Buddy, with the way it encourages today's youth to go forward and do their bit in changing the world," says frontman Bamboo Mañalac.

Shown are Smart executives and the members of Bamboo as they formalize the partnership with the signing of a contract. From left are Florante Jimenez, head of the sales and distribution group of Smart; Ira Cruz, guitarist; Pancho Gonzales, band manager; Nathan Azarcon, bassist; Dan Ibarra, head of mainstream marketing, also of Smart; Bamboo Mañalac, vocalist; and Vic Mercado, drummer.

**PLDT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH METROBANK**

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co recently signed an agreement with Metrobank for the provisioning of PLDT's various services to help the latter manage its banking operations more efficiently. Shown during the signing rites are, seated from left, Ernesto Alberto, SVP and head, corporate business group, PLDT; Napoleon Nazareno, president and CEO, PLDT and Smart; Arthur Ty, president, Metrobank; and Adrian Villanueva, head, general services group, PLDT. PLDT is also the major provider of ICT solutions to the Metrobank Group which includes Metrobank Card Corp, PSBank, Federal Land, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp, First Metro Investment Corp, and Phil AXA Life Insurance Corp, among others.

## Dorn Spinotherapy: Healing through the spine

SPINOTHERAPY IS A HOLISTIC, GENTLE, effective and safe way to correct misalignments of the spinal column and other joints. The method is based on natural laws of physics and anatomy that combines TCM (traditional Chinese medicine) principles with Western techniques.

Specifically, the Dorn Spinotherapy was developed some 30 years ago by a south German sawmill worker Dieter Dorn, who learned the technique of pain relief through fast and simple therapies on the human vertebra.

Dorn's first patient was his wife who, for several years, had suffered from severe headaches. Her doctors had found that the transverse processes of her cervical vertebrae were too long and could be shortened by surgery, but she refused to be operated. Dieter Dorn checked his wife's neck and found that the vertebrae were only twisted and that the X-ray readings were incorrect. He gently pushed the vertebrae back in place while his wife made rotating movements at the same time. Since then, her headaches disappeared.

The Dorn Spinotherapy was introduced to the Philippines by Rico William Villagracia, a protégé of another German, Thomas Zudrell, who studied the method with Dieter. Villagracia, a certified Dorn Spinotherapy specialist, has since specialized in this noble healing method. At present, his training has changed the lives of people who have lost all hopes in living life to the fullest.

The Dorn Spinotherapy, Villagracia clarifies, does not replace any other form of therapy but can be a fantastic supplement to them. Dorn is a gentle method, a very sensitive corrective form of the spine in a dynamic motion. Dorn Spinotherapy has numerous self-help exercises that patients religiously perform.

Dorn Spinotherapy is probably the most effective and safe manual therapy available today. Using natural laws of physics and anatomy, the Dorn Spinotherapy aligns the spine and other joints. In a very gentle yet effective way, the bones are brought back into their optimum position. The treatment is perfectly safe because it never goes beyond the patients' pain limit during the adjustments. In many cases, the Dorn Spinotherapy is able to correct difference in leg length, misalignments in the spine and other joints in only a few treatment sessions.

The Dorn Spinotherapy has been found to be effective in treating the following conditions: Scoliosis, Lordosis, Kyphosis, misalignments (subluxations), back pains, joint pains, different leg lengths, inclined pelvis, misaligned sacrum, migraine, and sciatica. Continued application of the Dorn Spinotherapy also helps in the prevention of these conditions.

To know more about Dorn Spinotherapy and how the quality of your life can be enhanced with just a few simple movements, get in touch with Villagracia at 906-1202, 0920-9209637, or 0922-8209637, e-mail info@dornspinotherapy.com, or log on to www.dornspinotherapy.com.

## *Whirlpool combines function, style*

THE WHIRLPOOL BRAND IS a world-class leader in home appliances because it recognizes everyday needs. It understands that the kitchen is the center of every home, which is why it has ensured that every Whirlpool brand microwave oven is loaded with more of what you want.

The Galaxy Series is the latest addition to Whirlpool's microwave oven lineup. One of the first to feature elegant mirror-finish doors, these microwave ovens are attractive and stylish, making any selection a beautiful addition to your home. Enjoy excellent defrosting, reheating and cooking results with 800 watts of power control all in a compact microwave oven that won't take up all of your counter space.

The Galaxy Series microwave ovens come in four varieties to choose from. Whether with mechanical or electronic controls, or with special quartz grill functions, you can be sure you will have the perfect tool in helping you prepare delicious meals for your family.

For further inquiries, visit your nearest Whirlpool showroom or call 712-0535 for more details.



## Female college students express entrepreneurial interest

LET'S GO FOUNDATION AND GE Money Bank recently presented the results of the study on entrepreneurship conducted among students from the four women colleges that comprise the Consortium of Women Colleges, namely: Assumption College, St. Scholastica's College, College of the Holy Spirit and Miriam College.

According to the results, majority of the students (88 percent) intend to start their own business in the future. However, limited knowledge, understanding and experience pose serious obstacles. 78 percent of the students surveyed have not been exposed to formal business management or entrepreneurship courses. Their understanding for business seems to be limited only to selling, which they experienced when they were growing up. 90 percent of the respondents answered that they would like to learn more about entrepreneurship and how to start their own business. Clearly, there is a gap in terms of the desire to put up a business with the knowledge and skill needed in order to accomplish this task. This gap shows the strong need to educate students on entrepreneurship.

Also expressed in the survey is the fact that 64 percent of the students prefer to be employed in a private corporation or a non-profit organization after they graduate, while only 31.75 percent thought of owning a business or being self-employed. These results show the continued focus of society towards pursuing employment rather than creating it after college.

The survey further revealed that the students are mostly influenced by their families to start a business; teachers only garnered a response of 5, which shows that schools have always followed the path of developing employees rather than entrepreneurs.

Another insight that can be drawn from the survey is that teaching materials should no longer be limited to the conventional traditional methods. With the advent of an increasingly more technological world, alternative methodologies such as simulations, online learning and more should be adopted. When asked about the different models of learning, only 28 percent of the respondents said they would like to learn through instruction (lectures and case studies) while 50 percent said they would like to learn through the use of technology (online courses and computer games).

The survey was conducted as a part of the Women Entrepreneurship (WE) program for college students initiated by Let's Go Foundation and GE Money Bank last year. The program aims to identify the interests and needs of the students, as well as gain insights that can enhance the program. The WE program also aims to encourage school programs to expose students to the needed entrepreneurship knowledge, skills and experience that will allow them to pursue and develop their interest in starting a business. This survey, which reveals the level of interest students show towards entrepreneurship and the current state of business-related education they are getting, strengthens GE Money Bank's cause in engaging in the program.

A total of 126 students were surveyed for this study. Two-thirds of the total sample comprised of students taking up business courses and the rest were made up of students taking up non-business courses.

### Reynolds interschool cook off

TEAMS FROM THE DE LA SALLE-COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE, LA CONsolacion College of Manila, San Sebastian College Recoletos and University of Sto. Tomas will tangle in a cook-off that will see them trading culinary skills and ingenuity and vying for the P100,000 grand prize at the Reynolds, The Strongest Wins Cook Off to be held on Oct. 21, 2 p.m. at the SM Southmall. Winners from the elimination rounds will receive P50,000 per team. Gracing these Reynolds events will be Gabe Mercado, as host and judge, and Menchu Antigua, co-host. Entertainers will be Tuesday Vargas and Candy Pangilinan. In the Philippines, Reynolds and Diamond Foil Wrap are the leading brands in food wrap and account for over 50 percent of the market in terms of value.

### Master Aussie photogs in WPPP Photo Congress

THE CELEBRATED FATHER AND SON TEAM OF AUSTRALIAN PHOtographers Martin and Ryan Schembri will be in Manila in a master class on Oct. 25 at the Megatrade Hall 3 of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The whole-day seminar is the culminating activity of the 4th Photo Congress of the Wedding & Portrait Photographers of the Philippines Inc which will be held from Oct. 22 to 24 in the same venue. With the theme "Imaging to the Highest Level", the Congress incorporates seminars, trade shows, photo exhibits and photo contests. The WPPP Photo Congress is supported by Kodak, Sony, Hewlett-Packard, Canon, Nikon, Graphic Sales Center, and The Book, and Olympus, Orange Digital Papers and Ynzal Marketing Corpt as minor sponsors. For more information, log on to www.photocongress.com.ph or call 410-5561 or 0917-7438949.

### Motorshow Int'l Cebu back with a bang

MOTORSHOW INTERNATIONAL, THE LONGEST-RUNNING AUTO AND cycle show in the Philippines, comes back to the Queen City of the South with a bang, bringing together car enthusiasts, at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) in Mandaue City, Cebu, from Oct. 16 to 21. The 8th Motorshow International in Cebu promises to surpass its previous track record. Slated at the 8th Motorshow Cebu are the first ever Motorshow Treasure Seekers (an adventure race), the Annual Car Clubs Meet, Motorshow Cebu Grand Slalom, the Motorshow in Scale, the always exciting Best in Show competition and the Outlast Autocross. Corporate sponsors for the event include Petron Corp, Cebu Unique Trade, Ambi-Pur, Sony, Foxchit, Cebu Daily News, NU 107.5, Power 89.1, and Magic 89.9 as media partners.

### American treats at Julius Maggi Kitchen

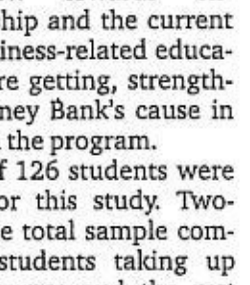
THIS OCTOBER, THE JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN (JMK) BRINGS HOME the Americans' exciting tradition of trick-or-treating and thanksgiving. The Nestlé Club is also offering a special lifestyle lecture on Homemade Candies where you'll discover how to make nougats, toffees, and other simple candies. These free cooking demos for new and old Nestlé Club members will be held on Oct. 20, 23, 25 and 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor of the Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call Quest Advertising at 727-4137 and 745-7462 or the Nestlé Consumer Services Hotline at 898-0061. The Nestlé Club will hold a paying class about Finger Food on Oct. 26 from 2 to 5 p.m. Call Nestlé consumer services at 898-0061 or fax 897-0987, or e-mail Consumer.Services@ph.nestle.com, log on to www.nestlerecipes.com.ph.

**MAX'S PARTIES AND FUNCTIONS RAFFLE WINNER**

Irene Hadloc (2nd from left) of Caloocan City receives a gift certificate of a P25,000 Baby Company nursery shopping spree as the monthly winner of the Max's Parties and Functions Toyota Avanza Treat promo. Also shown are, from left, Marc San Juan, Max's marketing manager, Jelio Reyes of Baby Company, and Iceal Penalosa of Max's.

## Langen appoints MPTP as exclusive agent

MOULD PACK TRADING PHILIPPINES (MPTP) ANNOUNCES ITS appointment as exclusive agent for Langen Packaging Inc of Canada. Langen's international sales manager Guido Echegaray says that the partnership with MPTP president Renato G. Kapauan is one which will no doubt further enhance Langen's presence in the Philippines with its state-of-the art cartoning machines, case packers and case palletizers with robotic technology at a very competitive cost. The company likewise specializes in packing unique biscuit designs in tailor-made cartons and boxes.



ECHEGARAY

Langen (www.langeninc.com) has more than 50 years of experience in packaging technology, having serviced the requirements of all multinational food and beverage companies as well as the pharmaceutical and bakery industries around the world.

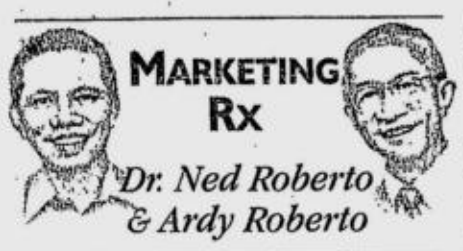
In the Philippines, Langen has more than 17 installations with the biggest multinational food companies worldwide and continues to service its requirements through its exclusive agent Mould Pack Trading Philippines.




**BAYAD CENTER CONTRACT SIGNING**

Eternal Plans Inc plan holders will soon be able to make their installment payments at Bayad Center collection outlets following the signing of an agreement between the pre-need company and the collection agency. Manuel Lorenzo L. Tuazon, president and chief executive officer of CIS Bayad Center Inc, and Elmer Lorica, president and chief operating officer of Eternal Plans Inc, seal their agreement with a handshake following their contract signing recently. With them are, from left, Aida Yuvienco, assistant vice president and head, sales, marketing and business development, CIS Bayad Center; Rolando Bongalon, AVP-marketing, EPI; and Amor Masigla, AVP-finance, EPI.

# 'Isn't distribution responsible for sales and therefore market share?'




QUESTION: OUR COMPANY DISTributes fast-moving consumer goods. We sell products and brands of big as well as not-so-big manufacturing companies. For a client that can afford it, we provide a dedicated sales force. For smaller companies, we have a sales force carrying other non-competing products. But for both groups, we take care of sales. That's why we tell any client that we are responsible for their market share.

But recently, during its annual strategic planning, an important client said he would not be able to meet his sales quota without advertising and sales promotion.

As head of the group servicing his account, I was quick to comment that without a distributor, there's no sales quota to talk about. But the client remarked: "You guys should start learning your marketing."

So, isn't it true that distribution is responsible for sales and market share? What exactly do advertising and sales promotion do for sales and market share?

A: You and your client are both right, but only half right. We have two sets of key marketing concepts to underscore and for you and your client to keep in mind.

Here's the first of these concepts. It's what your Marketing 101 says about what determines sales: "Sales is a function of all the elements of the entire marketing mix working together." If the marketing mix elements are the so-called 4 Ps (product, price, promotion and placement), then sales come as a result of not one, not two, not three but all four Ps together.

A similar principle applies to market share. Because market share is your client's sales relative to competition, therefore: "A brand's market share is a function of all the elements of its entire marketing mix versus those of its competitors."

## Everything has to work together

So as you can see, you as distributor and your client's ad agency and below-the-line (sales promo) agency are all responsible for sales and market share. Note though that the marketing rule says that sales and market share will come only if all of you work together. This leads us to the second set of key marketing concepts.

That set asks first: "What's A&P's (advertising and promotion's) role in generating sales and market share?" If we speak in terms of the consumer behavior behind sales, the role definition we're after becomes easier to explain.

Think then of sales as consumer purchases. So a brand's share of market (sales) becomes its share of consumer purchases.

Advertising is all about what marketers do to prepare and motivate consumers to purchase. This preparation and motivation take the forms of getting consumers to become aware of the brand, to recall it, and to learn its advantages versus competitors (i.e., its brand image).

Sales promotion influences consumers into getting them interested in purchasing now and not later. This is true for the two forms of sales promotion: consumer promo and trade promo. Consumer promo involves getting consumers to buy, while trade promo gets the retail trade and stores to sell the particular brand.

The budget for sales promo is typically with two separate agencies. The consumer promo budget is with your client's BTL (below-the-line) agency or with its ad agency (if this also functions as the client's BTL agency).

On the other hand, the trade promo budget is with you, the distributor. If we recall the first marketing principle, the effectiveness of these two sales promo forms depends on how well the two groups work together.

## Anti-dandruff shampoo wars

Talking about budget, it's sales promo that is getting the larger share compared to advertising. For more and more campaigns, especially for a new product launch, the ratio can go 80:20; that's 80 percent for sales promo and 20 percent for advertising.

This growing dominance of sales promo over advertising (budget-wise) is evident in the Unilever and P&G campaigns. We're quite certain you've noticed this in the ongoing anti-dandruff shampoo war.

And between consumer promo and trade promo, trade promo is getting a bigger budget than consumer promo.

Why the shift? One reason is the growing demand for accountability. Advertising has been struggling to demonstrate its effectiveness and accountability for sales. It's different with sales promo. Its very name directly links it with sales.

And now, what about distribution and you, the distributor?

## Filling the pipeline

In consumer marketing, a full-service distributor functions first as a "physical distributor," and secondly, as a "sales distributor."

Physical distribution is charged with physically moving the client's product stock along the distribution channel: manufacturer to distributor, distributor to wholesalers, wholesalers to retailers. This function is also known in the trade as "filling the pipeline."

If we're talking about a nationwide coverage, this function can be massive and therefore will take time. For this reason, marketing recognizes the significance by this rule: "The first order of business in marketing is pipeline filling first before advertising and sales promo. Motivating consumers to buy the product without the product being available is lost sales."

It was Matsushita who is best remembered as drawing marketing's attention to the pivotal importance of physical distribution when he said: "No product will move unless it is first in place."

Sales distribution then sees to it that the channel movement continues to the ultimate movement: "shelf offtake." That's moving the product from the retailer's shelf into the hands of the buying consumers.

Today, this function has come to be known by various terms: "category management," "trade marketing," "store marketing," and so on.

Because each of these has evolved into a discipline in its own right, the true and ultimate focus on the end consumers has sometimes been overshadowed, if not forgotten.

It was Kellogg School's two distribution and sales gurus, Coughlan and Stern, who reminded everyone about this fundamental.

They said in 2002: "The purpose of trade marketing is to satisfy the target end-user consumers, and not the distributors, wholesalers or retailers."

*(Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net.)*

# Back to basics: Grow our own food

By Willy E. Arcilla
*Contributor*

THERE'S a need for the country to have abundant supply of food. INQUIRER PHOTO

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, COMPANIES typically find their solution by going back to the basics. It is no different for a country in crisis.

There's a need to galvanize the whole nation to return to its roots as an agrarian economy and grow its own food instead of relying on imports and allowing 25 percent of the children to go malnourished and 60 percent to live on less than P100 per day.

We have neglected our agriculture for so long, but no nation with a large population base can aspire to achieve the status of a Newly-Industrialized Country (NIC) without achieving a measure of self-sufficiency in food production.

If we resolve and commit to grow our own food—rice and corn (we still import both), fresh fruits and vegetables, fish, poultry, pork and beef—then we ought to review and rechannel our priorities following the fundamental principle of economics which is the allocation of scarce resources.

Growing our own food will help address many of our problems:

- Unemployment will be reduced as we encourage reverse migration to redirect the millions of rural poor who have moved to urban centers just to become squatters.
- Gainful employment in agriculture (whether our unemployed will farm, fish or build farm-to-market infrastructure) will curtail the problem of informal settlers in congested and depressed urban areas, thus reducing crime and improving peace-and-order, and providing a better living environment for families of workers.
- Food adequacy will directly address the problems of widespread malnutrition and even, I dare say, many of our illnesses attributable to poor diets as healthier fresh food like fruits and vegetables, fish and chicken are made more affordable to all.
- Well-nourished children are the backbone for a higher quality of our workforce, because poor children on hungry stomachs cannot learn in school. If they cannot learn in school, they cannot pass achievement tests for higher levels of education. Thus, they cannot qualify for employment in a world that requires raising the bar of performance each time due to stiffer competition and demanding consumers.
- Ample food will reduce a major component of the cost-of-living of laborers.
- A lower cost-of-living can help freeze if not reduce wages, thus improving our cost structure to make our industries more competitive in today's global economy.
- A lower cost structure for Philippine industry makes the country a more attractive haven for foreign investors, generating new employment, higher personal savings for reinvestment and total value-creation through the entire ecosystem.
- Once we achieve an abundance and oversupply of food for domestic consumption, we can turn agriculture into a major export item and a serious source of dollar revenues.
- Which will reduce food import bills, curb smuggling of rice or fresh vegetables and rechannel dollars for other vital imports such as fuel oil or debt repayment.
- Agriculture can also be the answer to reducing our dependency on imported oil and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions if we can successfully find a way to economically produce biofuel from coconut and ethanol from sugar, and use other feedstock that don't compromise on food production like sorghum and jathropha.
- Eliminating hunger by producing an abundant supply of food should help put an end to the country's 40-year communist insurgency and the Muslim secessionist movement.
- Finally, achieving self-sufficiency in food production will emancipate 60 million Filipinos from the bondage of poverty and oppression of hunger, thus paving the way to unlock the potential of the Filipino people as they regain their sense of dignity and self-esteem, and achieve fulfillment as productive members of society.

We are in a crisis so we must return to the basics. Let us strive to grow an abundant supply of staple crops, vegetables and fruits, raise livestock and breed/catch fish to feed our people. This will usher in a new life. A new nation.

*(The author is a business graduate from UP Diliman with an MS in Industrial Economics from UA&P-CRC. He has had a career spanning 22 years in various marketing, sales and general management roles in MNCs and Philippine conglomerates across the Asia-Pacific region, managing 50 different brands in 24 product categories. He is now the president of Business Mentors, a management consulting firm and regional director of ZMG Signium Ward Howell, Inc., a leading provider of human capital solutions. He is also a professorial lecturer at various universities and business schools and a writer on business and economics).*

# Pilferage ...

From page B2-1

shops all over the country.

Boschi says in an interview that he initially wanted to design the store according to European standards, which means the items are displayed openly and customers are free to try them on and test how they fit by themselves.

He changed his mind because he did not want customers to be tempted to steal any of the items, which cost anywhere between P8,000 ($173) and P26,000 ($565).

So instead of having open displays, Rudy Project's "technically cool eyewear" are kept under lock and key. When customers want to try them on, the sales people will have to open the case and then watch as they try on the eyewear.

Boschi says it helps that the 19 shops are quite small at about 30-50 square meters, thus, it is easy for the sales people to watch customers from a distance.

Rudy Project in the Philippines sells not just eyewear but also watches, bags and apparel, a first in the network of Italy-based Rudy Project. Boschi has been licensed to take his retail concept to other countries.

## Like family

As for internal theft, Boschi says he has been lucky because he has not fallen victim to internal pilferage since he started in 2001. This he attributes to good employee relations.

"We are like family. Every year, we bring the office people and three of our top salesmen to a trip abroad. Last year, we went to Hong Kong. This year, we are going to Kuala Lumpur. I want them to really feel that they are part of the company," he says.

Such feeling of family, he says, works better at preventing internal pilferage than rules and regulations.

As for Suresh Mirpuri, general manager of New Barbizon Fashion Inc., which manufactures the Barbizon, Mona Lisa and Sassa lingerie and ladies wear, pilferage remains a concern, considering it has 100 outlets all over the country.

"Theft is really a big issue in retail. Something goes on every month," Mirpuri says.

He says the methods have changed through the company's 40 years of doing business in the country.

There was a time when shoppers will just bring in bags, put in underwear while the sales people are not looking, and then quickly running out of the department store.

Today, it has become more sophisticated, with syndicates bringing in their own receipts and bags so they can get products. There are times, he says, when these groups hit different outlets at the same time in a department store.

He also says that there are times when big boxes of items are taken out when the goods are returned to the warehouse by unscrupulous employees, not to so much when goods are brought from the warehouse to the stores because the controls there are stricter.

But Mirpuri stresses that the Barbizon group changes its internal rules to cope with these changes in modus operandi because he says losses over 1 percent of sales "is unacceptable."

"Because there are various ways of stealing, we also have to approach each case differently," he says.

Controls include spot checks, inventory counting at least twice a year and getting employees to pay for a portion of the lost goods if it is determined they were careless.

Barbizon produces over two million pieces of underwear every year, thus it is inevitable that it loses part of the inventory to internal and external theft. It is just not practical to put a radio tag on each product to trigger an alarm.

Mirpuri adds that because Barbizon does not have a standalone store, rather stalls inside department stores, the company tries to enlist the help of the mall security guards to help guard the goods.

# What are Filipinos worried about today?

From page B2-4

others were not. And among those who were, their concern for the environment didn't appear very intense or pressing to the point of consolidating toward large percentages in McCann's surveys.

But this time around, it seems that concern for Mother Earth has already reached a tipping point—becoming the single-most important issue today across different age groups in the Philippines.

Maybe it was the most recent harsh experiences with nature—both here (landslides in Southern Luzon) and abroad (the tsunamis of recent past) that triggered it ... or possibly even Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth" that stirred people's attention toward the issue of global warming.

Regardless, one thing is clear. Filipinos today feel a larger stake in the environment, and are extremely worried about it more so than any other time in the past.

## Am I safe?

The issues on illegal drugs and on fear about becoming a crime victim come in at second and third, respectively. This was followed by some fear about contracting deadly diseases (like a super virus) and AIDS.

As regards to the latter, it seems that the Asia-Pacific region's recent experience with "new super disease" like SARS, avian flu, and, locally, the meningococcemia scare are fueling some concern. This applies even for younger Filipinos who normally feel invincible against diseases.

As a developing country, it came as no surprise that Filipinos were also quite concerned about issues related to their ability to provide for themselves and their families—now and in the future.

Teens, in particular, are worried about their futures whereas young adults are concerned about the now. Those from the 40 to 60 year old age-range, on the other hand, were not as concerned about money-related issues.

What is noteworthy with all this is that, while concern about financial-related issues remains widespread, it is no longer the sole worry of citizens from a developing country like the Philippines.

Rather, other "long-term" issues like the environment are also cropping up on the radar screens of people—indicating that, indeed, these are becoming more pressing and really need to be addressed.

## Access to information

Easier access to information from around the world through mass media and the Internet have clearly helped elevate the level of awareness of the Filipino public—not just on local pressing issues—but also those that are impacting society on a global level. It seems that the Filipino, through easier access to information, has truly become a global citizen.

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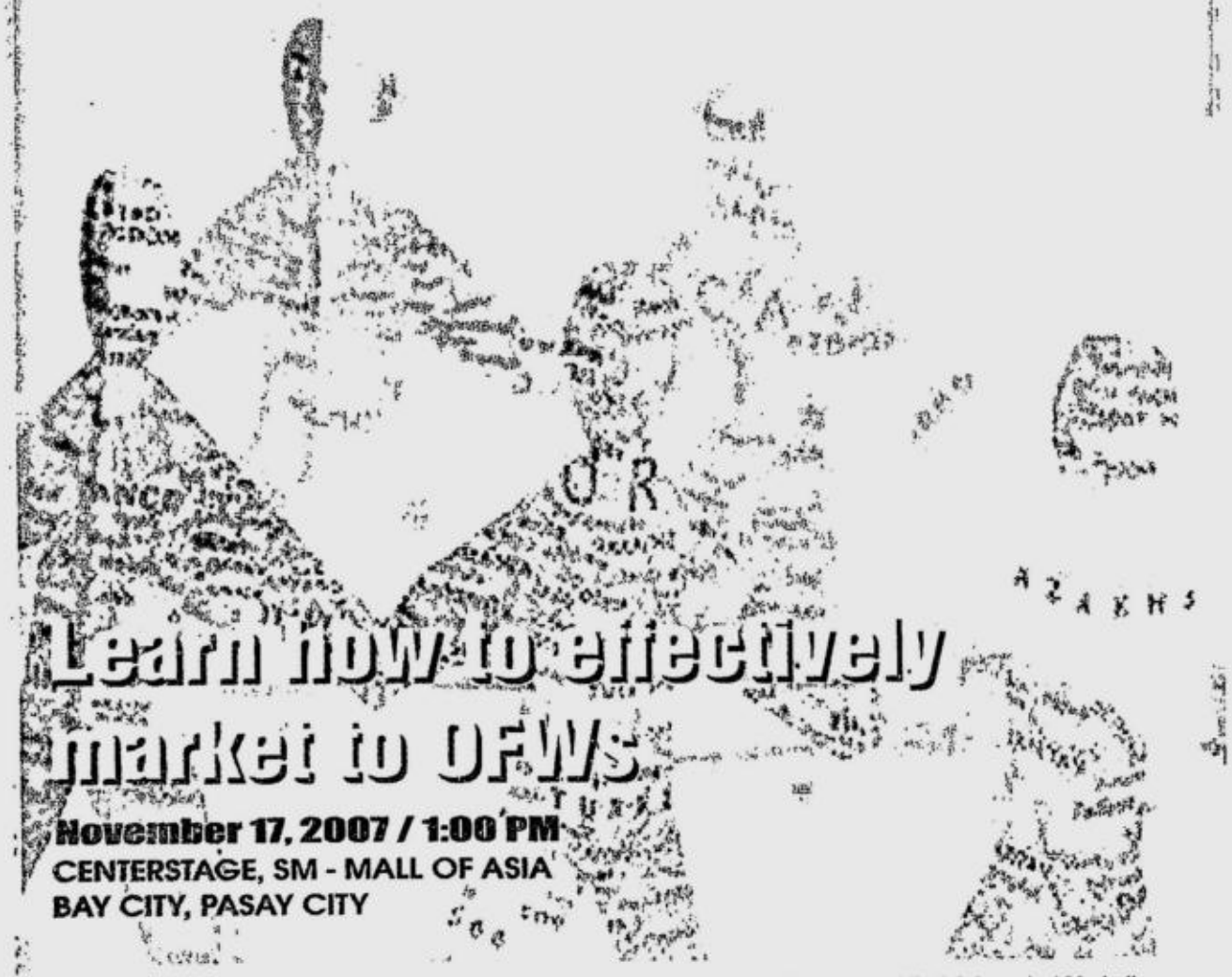


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**Worries and Concerns**

| | 12 to 20 | 21 to 30 | 31 to 40 | 41 to 60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Environment/Pollution** | | | | |
| 1. Pollution in the air and water | 50% | 50% | 54% | 57% |
| **Drugs & Criminality** | | | | |
| 2. Drugs | 42% | 42% | 45% | 44% |
| 3. Being a crime victim | 36% | 39% | 36% | 37% |
| **Health & Disease** | | | | |
| 4. Contracting a disease (super virus) | 29% | 32% | 34% | 28% |
| 5. Getting AIDS | 28% | 30% | 26% | 23% |
| 6. Getting sick for a long time | 20% | 21% | 24% | 25% |

Base: Total Respondents

**Worries and Concerns**

| | 12 to 20 | 21 to 30 | 31 to 40 | 41 to 60 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Success/Future/Money-Related** | | | | |
| 7. Quality of education | 38% | 34% | 38% | 37% |
| 8. Not finishing or not going to college | 31% | 18% | 17% | 13% |
| 9. Not being successful | 29% | 25% | 22% | 16% |
| 10. Not getting a job later on | 27% | 23% | 18% | 14% |
| 11. Not having achievements in life | 22% | 15% | 11% | 18% |
| 12. Not able to send children to school | 21% | 26% | 28% | 18% |
| 13. Losing my job | 21% | 21% | 19% | 16% |
| 14. Not having anything to feed children | 20% | 26% | 27% | 17% |
| 15. Needing to make money | 20% | 24% | 19% | 22% |

Base: Total Respondents

# What are Filipinos worried about today?

**By Hans Lopez-Vito**
*VP-strategic planning director*
*McCann Worldgroup Philippines*

THE CONSUMER INSIGHT AND STRATEGIC planning experts at McCann Worldgroup Philippines have discovered that the most important concerns facing today's Filipinos encompass a whole slew of topics. They disclosed these findings in a new McCann Intergeneration Study, a comprehensive survey which tracked 2,000 urban Filipinos, aged 12-60, and analyzed their lifestyle, school/work ethic, consumer behavior, moral standards and perception of society.

As in McCann's previous groundbreaking studies, this survey is an eye opener. For one, it shows that older generations of adults share the same worries as teenagers, indicating that, possibly for the first time, Filipinos are starting to become united on the "burning issues" that confront society today.

## Environment pressing issue

At the top of their worry is the environment—in particular, air and water pollution.

While concern for the environment has always surfaced in one way or another in McCann's past market researches, it was only something that existed under the surface: some people were concerned about it,

WHAT ARE/ B2-3

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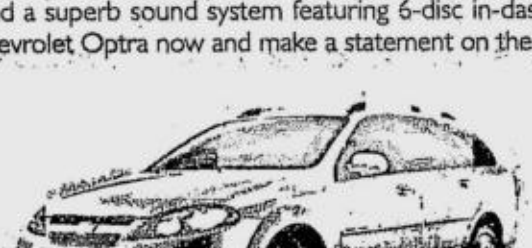

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# For the fashionista on a budget

## At Robinsons Starmills, many designer brands are available at discounts of 50-75 percent—all year round

By Linda B. Bolido

YOU NEED NOT STRETCH your budget to breaking point to follow the trend or frustrate yourself doing no more than window-shop at fashionable stores.

The Robinsons Malls group has just made over its Starmills branch in San Fernando, Pampanga into an outlet store.

Now you can get labels like Mango, Terranova, Calliope, Gas, Benetton, Nike, Florsheim, Naturalizer and Bossini, among others at discounts of 50-75 percent—all year round!

"It is the ultimate bargain haven for the fashion-minded," says Nilo S. Mapa, Robinsons Malls general manager.

At Mango, for instance, one recent buyer got a pair of shoes originally priced at about P8,000 for a little over P2,000.

Shirts with price tags of over P1,000 are selling for P300.

As for Plains & Prints, it does not only offer discounts but has an extensive stock. People looking for pieces that have gone missing in their favorite branches are likely to find them at Starmills.

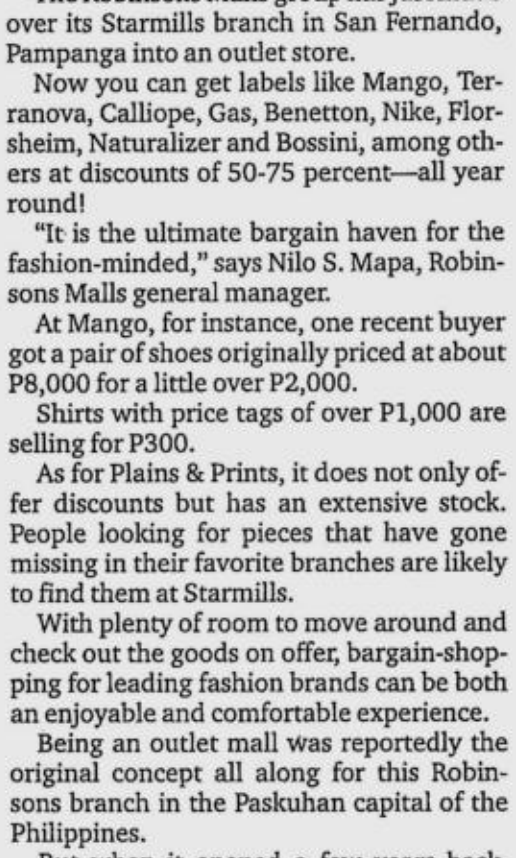
With plenty of room to move around and check out the goods on offer, bargain-shopping for leading fashion brands can be both an enjoyable and comfortable experience.

Being an outlet mall was reportedly the original concept all along for this Robinsons branch in the Paskuhan capital of the Philippines.

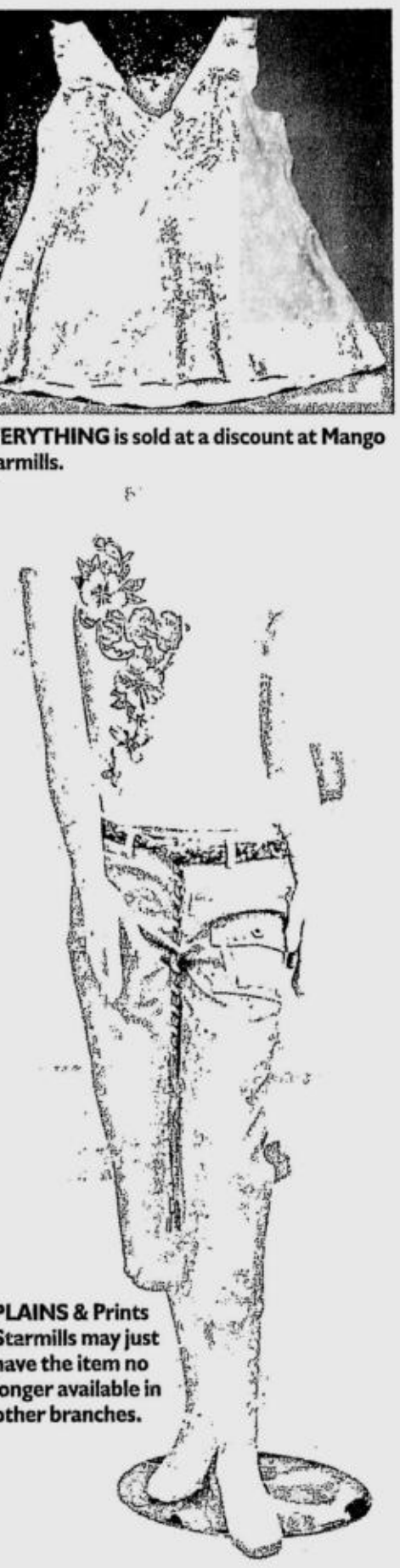
But when it opened a few years back, management did not feel consumers were

FOR THE/ C3

GUESS Kids has clothes and accessories for children from infants to teens.



EVERYTHING is sold at a discount at Mango Starmills.



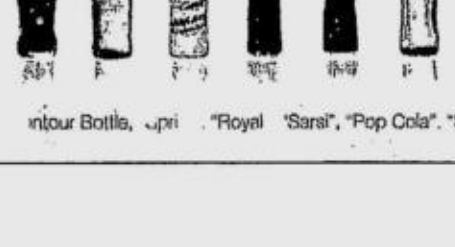
PLAINS & Prints Starmills may just have the item no longer available in other branches.

66 GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT OUT OF YOUR LIFE.

My happiness comes from living a balanced life.
As a sportscaster and athlete,
I balance everything everyday!
I maintain a balanced diet,
get a lot of physical activity, enough rest,
and drink what makes me happy!

Paolo Abrera
Sportscaster and Athlete

A balanced life is a Sparkling Life.



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# US lifestyle mag gets local dressing

NATIONAL Artist Ben Cabrera, designer Jonathan Matti and Annie Saurthou

*MOI* WAS TOLD BY woman of substance **Mia Borromeo** that the Manila edition of Town & Country, of which she's editor at large, has been promoting all the things that last, "good manners, good sense, and good fun," *palanggas*.

The local edition of Town & Country, one of the most prestigious lifestyle magazines in the US, was launched at a *tres* formal affair at The Peninsula Manila.

It was indeed a very momentous celebration, *naturellement*, and it was led by the hot team behind the Philippine edition such as Borromeo, **Monique Villonco** as editor in chief; brilliant **Tara Santos** as associate publisher, and **Jeanette Chang**, senior vice president and international publishing director of Hearst Magazines International, who jetted in from New York to attend the fantastic happening.

The evening was conceptualized jointly by Borromeo and **Junie Rodriguez**, who put together "The Best of Filipino Living," an exhibition and sale of art, antiques, furniture, jewelry and accessories for the benefit of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation.

The team of two also enlisted **Ponce Veridiano**, who created spectacular pockets of greenery that transformed The Pen's lobby entrance and ballroom foyer into a lush garden, *palanggas*.

The exhibition showcasing outstanding Filipino and Asian designs set throughout The Peninsula's Rigodon Ballroom was artfully designed and styled by Rodriguez.

With a grand opening for this prestigious magazine, there just had to be the chilled bubbly champagne and wine which was pouring all night, complemented by a superb Filipino fusion menu specially prepared by chefs of The Pen, dahlings.

The exhibit was the perfect backdrop in the ballroom, as the elegantly dressed chic invitees of Cosmo Manille's *alta sociedad* danced, danced and danced some more to the fantastic music of DJ wiz **Cocoy Puyat** and the Bloomfields till nearly everyone forgot how late it was.

The debut of the Philippine edition of Town & Country was co-presented by Citigold, the wealth management service of Citibank, and The Peninsula Manila, and made possible by Samsung, Belvedere, Hennesey, Rustan's.

That adorable and civic-oriented **Lizzie Eder Zobel**, no less, is on the cover of the premiere issue. It is available in newsstands nationwide.

**WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH**

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

## The Ramp at TriNoma

It is said that "high fashion is synonymous with the good life," *palanggas*. So it's no wonder that the ever popular Crossings has introduced a new concept in stylish living via The Ramp.

The Ramp at Crossings has been a must-stop for shoppers with its cool collections by young designers and *tres* exclusive labels which are a must-buy for the hip and trendy set, dahlings.

As *moi* breezed in during the launching, *moi* noticed instantly that Crossings had expanded its chic stores to include a lifestyle hub at the new TriNoma Mall in Quezon City. The area devoted to the popular section, The Ramp, is very big, with special sections devoted to Crossings Home and the Lounge.

Since I'm such a consumer victim, it was time to shop, *palanggas*, but I was not alone. One wouldn't miss hot **JayR**, eye-catcher **Christine Jacob-Sandejas**, gorgeous **Helena Belmonte, Patty Laurel, Raya Mananquil** and **Valerie de los Santos**, plus loads of others from our town's trendy set, during the fun shop-till-you-drop opening bash, *palanggas*.

Check out The Ramp, now also at The Podium. Soon, Crossings Lifestyle hub will invade Glorietta Mall at Makati's Ayala Center, dahlings.

## Raining hunks

It was that time of the year when it was raining men, *palanggas*.

While *moi* was inching closer to the stage, the hall was deafening, as tons—and I mean tons—of fun, fearless females screamed their lungs out as the rain of men begun at Cosmo Mag's annual Cosmopolitan Bachelor Bash held at the NBC Tent.

With a theme inspired by the hit TV series "Lost," the event made loyal Cosmo readers, celebrities, and advertisers feel as though they had boarded an airplane that crash-landed into a deserted island filled with men, men and more men. In-n-n-cre-di-ble, dahlings.

The handsome hunks were dressed as island natives, mountain guerrillas and pirates.

Cosmopolitan's hot, hot centerfolds were **Paolo Paraiso, Jon Avila, Bruno Folster, Joem Bascon, Marvin Raymundo, Luke Jickain, Derek Ramsey,** and **Dingdong Dantes**—they all took center stage as rescuers. However, missing in action were hot men **Jake Cuenca** and **Alfred Vargas**, who were out of town.

Once the islanders traded their scanty outfits for party-style attire, they mingled with everyone, while booze flowed, like, forever, *palanggas*.

If you got the Cosmo issue with gorgeous **Jessica Alba** on the cover, you must be drooling by now over the 69 hot men fresh off the island and 10 centerfold rescuers in a colorful supplement that comes with the issue. "Wow" is all I can say.

THE TEAM behind Town & Country (Philippine edition) :art director Manny Chaves, editor at large Mia Borromeo, editor in chief Monique Villonco and associate publisher Tara Santos

CECILLE Fonacier

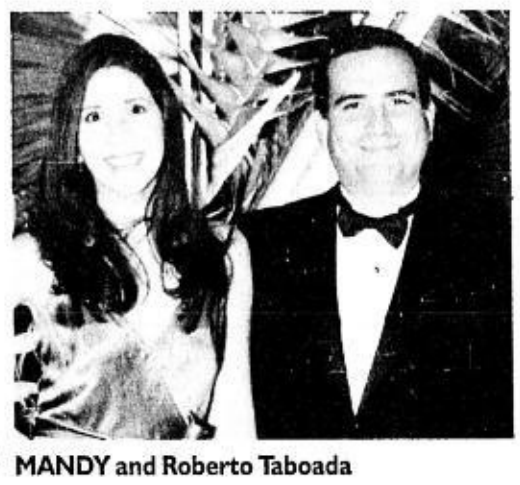
BELLA Yuchengco

CITIBANK'S country business manager Mark Jones and wife Jennie, with Jenny Lacerna and Judith Go

SAMSUNG'S Penn Roque and Joey Anciano

NINA Herrera and husband Anton Huang



MANDY and Roberto Taboada

TALENTED interior designer Junie Rodriguez

HOT DJ Cocoy Puyat

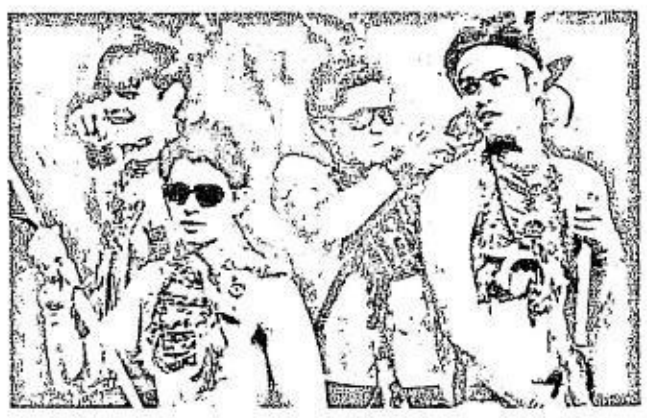


SUPERMODELS Valerie de los Santos and Raya Mananquil

ANNA Palabyab

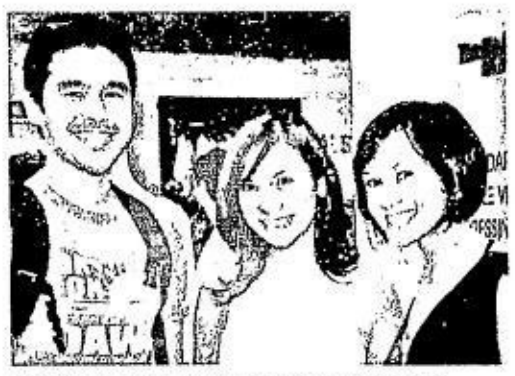
CHESCA Garcia

COSMOPOLITAN editor in chief Zo Aguila



MEN overload

CHRISTINE Jacob-Sandejas



ATOM Araullo, Patty Laurel and Anikka Aquino of Crossings

PRESY Ramos, Virgie Ramos and singer JayR

ROBBIE Carmona, Donna Cuna-Pita, Xandra Padilla, Rachy Cuna and PDI's Ria Prieto

2007 Cosmo hunks: Jon Avila, Luke Jickain, Derek Ramsay, Dingdong Dantes, Marvin Raymundo, Bruno Folster and Paolo Paraiso

SPACIOUS Mango outlet store (left); Havaianas in all styles and colors at All Flip Flops (above)

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# For the fashionista on a budget

From page C1

ready to embrace the concept already so popular in other countries.

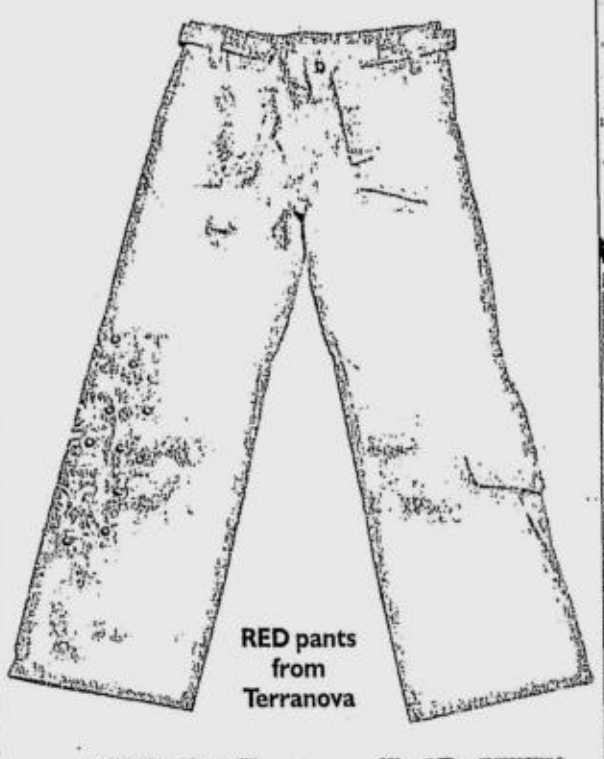
Now they think the time is right.

Formally opened only yesterday, several of the establishments have been operational since June and has since seen their clientele steadily growing.

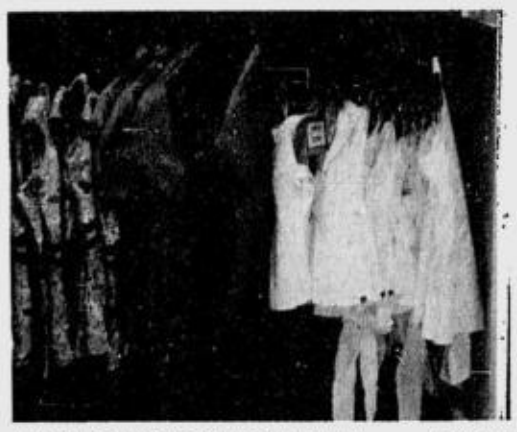
Among the "early discoverers" are people flying in and out of Clark International Airport.

With the trip from Metro Manila just taking a little over an hour, more and more Manilans seem to find it worth the money and effort to drive all the way to Starmills for their fashion buys.

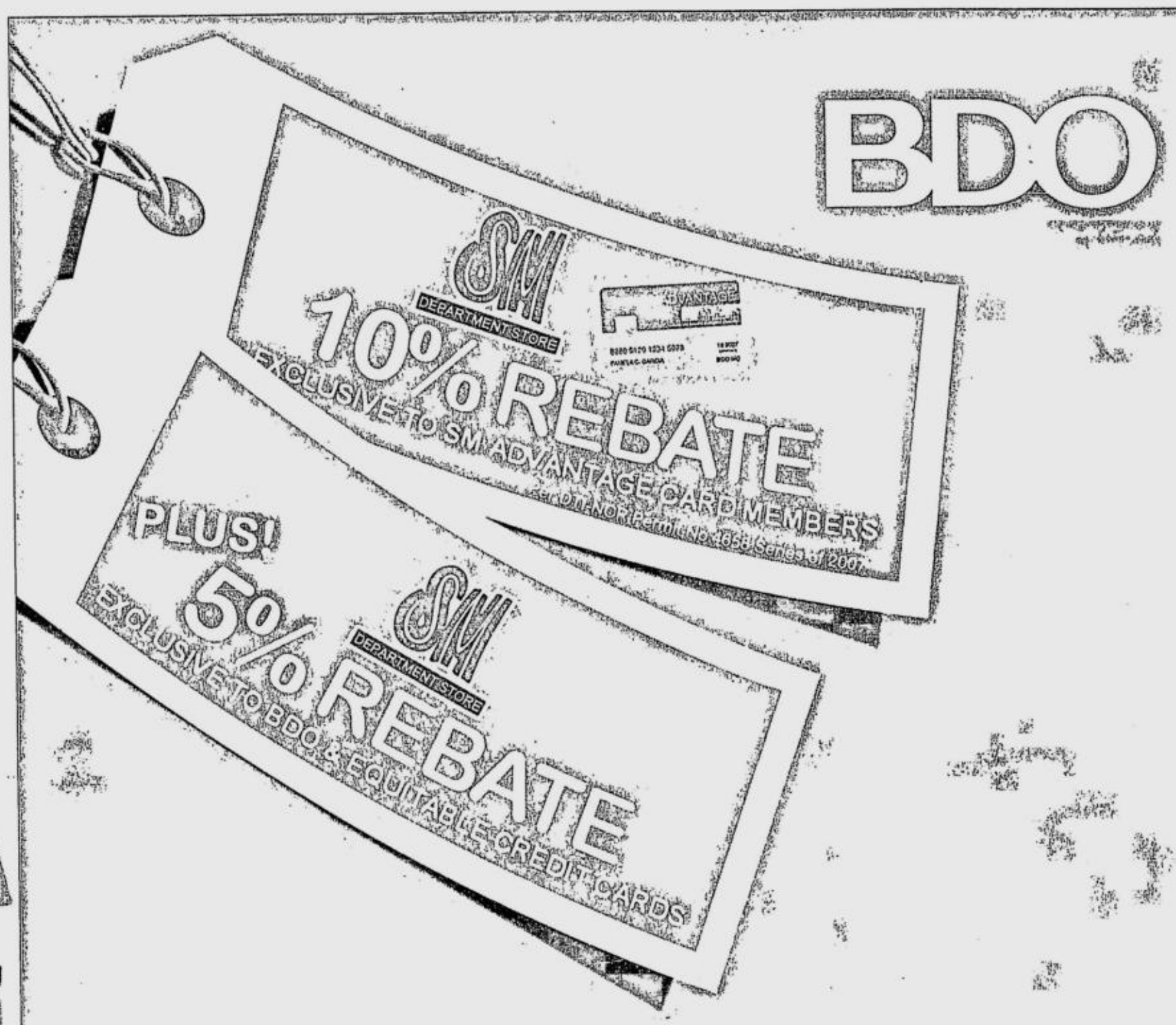
Other labels that have set up shop at Robinsons Starmills are All Flip Flops, retailer of Havaianas; Guess Kids and Shoreline that carries the brands Sperry and Top Siders.



RED pants from Terranova



PLAINS & Prints Starmills' extensive collection offers hope that loyal customers can find what they are looking for.



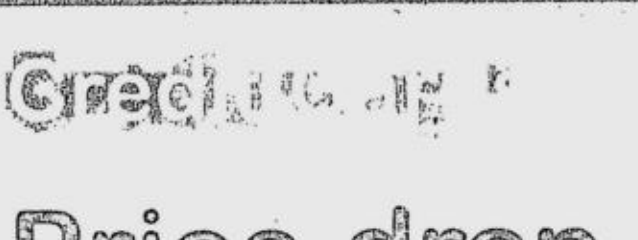

Credit Cards

Price-drop 'til you drop!

Shop with your BDO and Equitable credit cards at SM Department Stores in Megamall, Bacoor, Baguio, Marilao, Batangas and Davao during the 3-Day Sale on October 19 to 21 and enjoy exclusive rebates!

*Enjoy up to 15% Rebate!

Get an instant 5% Rebate* for a minimum purchase of P3,000 and an additional 10% Rebate with your SM Advantage Card on the first day of the sale from 10am to 12nn!



We find ways

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Shop with your BDO and Equitable credit cards and get a chance to win P5,000 worth of SM Gift Cards!

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Equitable Cards: Call 867-7977 or 1-800-1888-3264 (Domestic Toll-Free)

*Rebate also applies to 0% at 3-month installment purchase worth P5,000.
Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4914 Series of 2007

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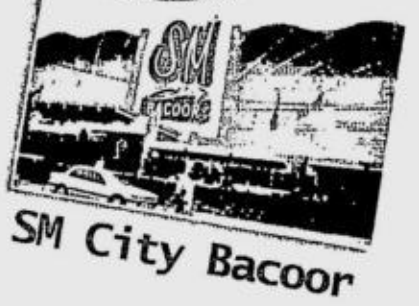


SM City Bacoor

**Shop and save more on a wide selection of merchandise and services during the simultaneous 3-DAY SALE at SM Megamall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Marilao, and SM City Baguio on the weekend of October 19, 20 and 21.**

**Early-bird holiday shoppers can take advantage of big discounts of up to 50% off and exciting promo offers mallwide.**

SM City Marilao

SM City Baguio

SM MEGAMALL

So much more at SM Megamall

Check out our newly-renovated and newly-opened stores for new arrivals. It's time to upgrade your personal gadgets at CYBERZONE on Level 4, Bldg. B. **Tech Fair 0% Buy Now, Pay Next Year** promo is on going thru BDO & Equitable credit cards. Visit the fashion concept stores for the latest apparel trends and shop for home furnishings.

**Extended Mall Hours:**
**Oct. 19-20 • 10am-11pm ( Fri-Sat)**
**Oct. 21 • 10am-10pm (Sun)**

# 3 DAY SALE

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UP TO 50% OFF

GREAT SELECTIONS MALLWIDE

**Mall hours: 10am - 10pm**

25 prizes for 25 winners!

Be one of the lucky shoppers to win a free Next Base portable DVD player with a 7-inch color monitor.

Your P500 single-receipt purchase from any participating food or non-food mall store qualifies you to join the raffle promo.

AT STAKE: 10 units for 10 winners at SM Megamall; 5 units for 5 winners per mall at SM City Bacoor, SM City Marilao and SM City Baguio.

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Relax and watch your favorite stars in their latest flicks at SM CINEMA.

Every single purchase of four cinema tickets qualifies you to join the Next Base DVD player raffle promo.

MEGAMALL

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Contributing editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Jenni Epperson support the fight against breast cancer

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Photography
Chuck Le Chuck
Styling
Rosario Herrera /Style Lab
Makeup
Al De Leon (0917 8930689)
Models Sal Harvey
Maxim Melissa Grace Roberts

# Shades of style

**Stylist Rosario Herrera proclaims that sunglasses this season are all about "vibrant colors, oversized frames and printed shades"**

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT THE WIRED world has contributed to fashion, it's the more democratic coverage of style.

No longer are trendspotters limited to getting their fashion fix solely from the runway reports of glossy magazines, with blogs becoming alternative radars that chronicle in real time what's out on the street.

In fact, top international fashion magazines such as Vogue, Elle and GQ today turn to blogs for their urban style coverage. Some of these more popular blogs are Face Hunter (face-hunter.blogspot.com) or "eye candy for the style hungry," and The Sartorialist (thesartorialist.blogspot.com), which features the most fashionable citizens of style capitals Milan, Paris and New York. Time magazine has even named The Sartorialist as one of the Top 100 Design Influencers today.

**Jenni Epperson**

The interactive nature of the Web also makes these street fashion blogs even more interesting, with guests being able to leave their comments about each featured fashionista. What this all means is that you can't deny what you see on the streets.

Call it Street Wisdom if you will. It's a sign of the modern world's opening up to the indi-

SHADES/ D2

**SUNGLASSES by Ksubi, P11,900; shirt by Methamphibian, P1,720 , both from Greyone Social; ring, P899, from Anthology, Power Plant Mall**

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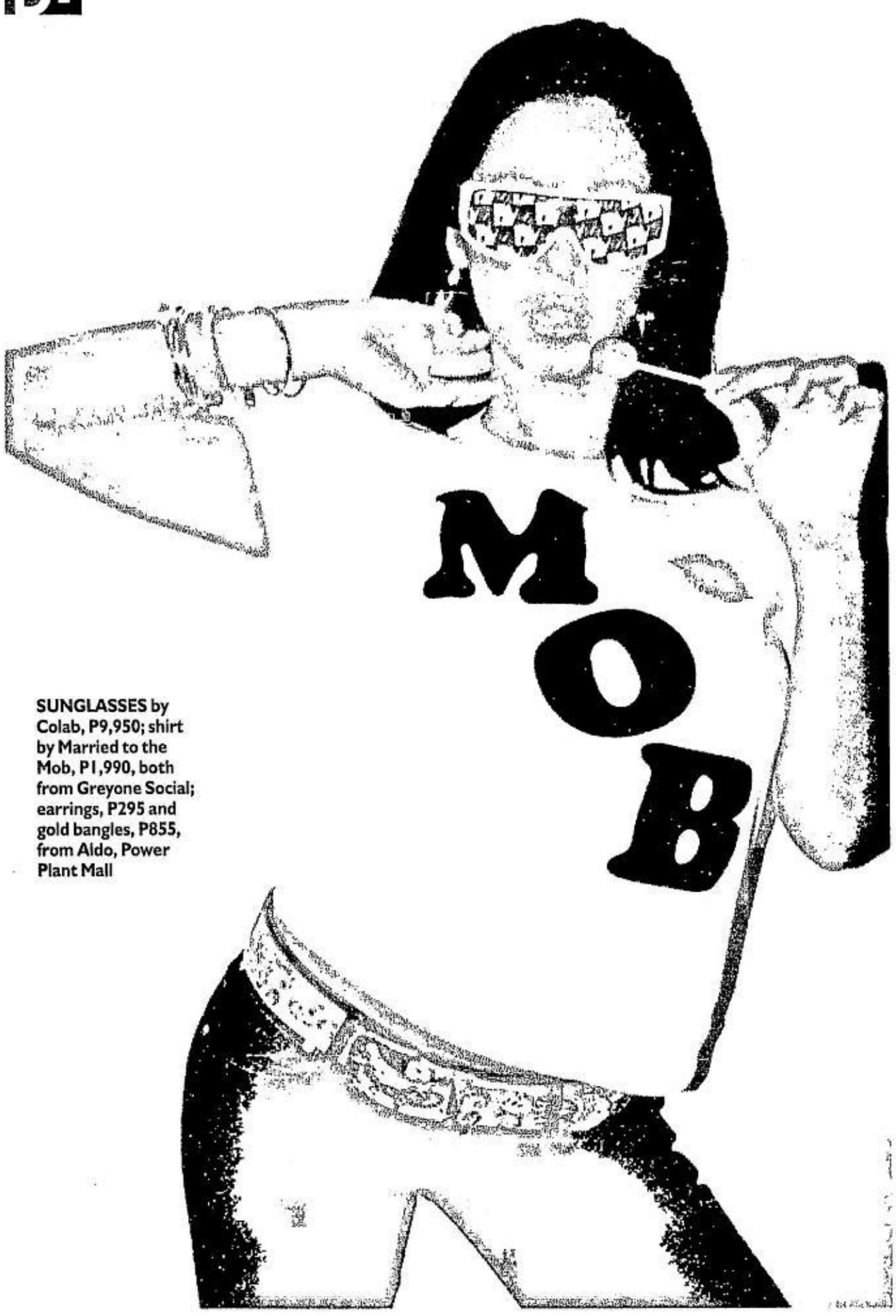

SUNGLASSES by Colab, P9,950; shirt by Married to the Mob, P1,990, both from Greyone Social; earrings, P295 and gold bangles, P855, from Aldo, Power Plant Mall

SUNGLASSES by Ksubi, P9,500, from Greyone Social; V-neck shirt, P599, from Anthology

# Shades of style

From page D1

vidual as a legitimate tastemaker, joining the ranks of the fashion authorities as a source of influence. The result is "high/low," or a balance between high style and street style.

One thing that's showing up on the street radar is the continuous evolution of sunglasses. Shades are, after all, the urban runway's mainstay accessory. In our city, with its everlasting hot weather and sunlight, shades are a daytime wardrobe essential.

For this season, oversized frames are still ruling the streets, with retro shapes coming back in style. Stylist Rosario Herrera proclaims the trend to be all about "vibrant colors, oversized frames and printed shades."

Leading the pack are a few brands from Australia, such as Ksubi and Colab. Of course, the super chic mainstays are Fendi, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Chloe.

"But one can never forget the trendy, true and very affordable Aldo shades," adds Rosario.

Here is a look at street-inspired style, with some shady influences!

*E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph*

SUNGLASSES, P655, from Aldo; shirt by Unbreakable, P850, from Greyone Social

**SUNGLASSES** by Jean Paul Gaultier, P7,995, from Ideal Vision; Transformers shirt, P850, from Unbreakable; silver and gold leather cuff, P500, ring, P750, both from Anthology

**SUNGLASSES** by Chloe, P8,995, from Ideal Vision; shirt, P499, from Anthology; belt, P1,595, from Aldo

"Zunic, by far, has the most effective and relaxing slimming treatments (with immediate and lasting results) I've ever experienced!"

– Authentic customer statement, 22 March 2007
(not a paid endorsement)

It's not easy for hearty eaters to diet. Everyone knows how agonizing it is to deprive yourself of food! It is no less difficult when you're overweight; all that extra weight dangerously accelerates your heart rate, which may put you at risk from heart failure.

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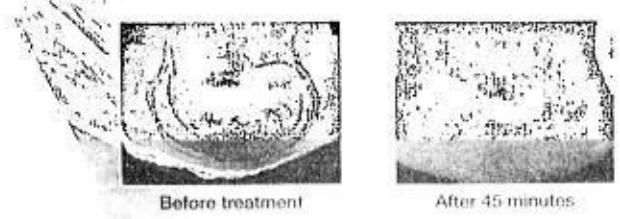

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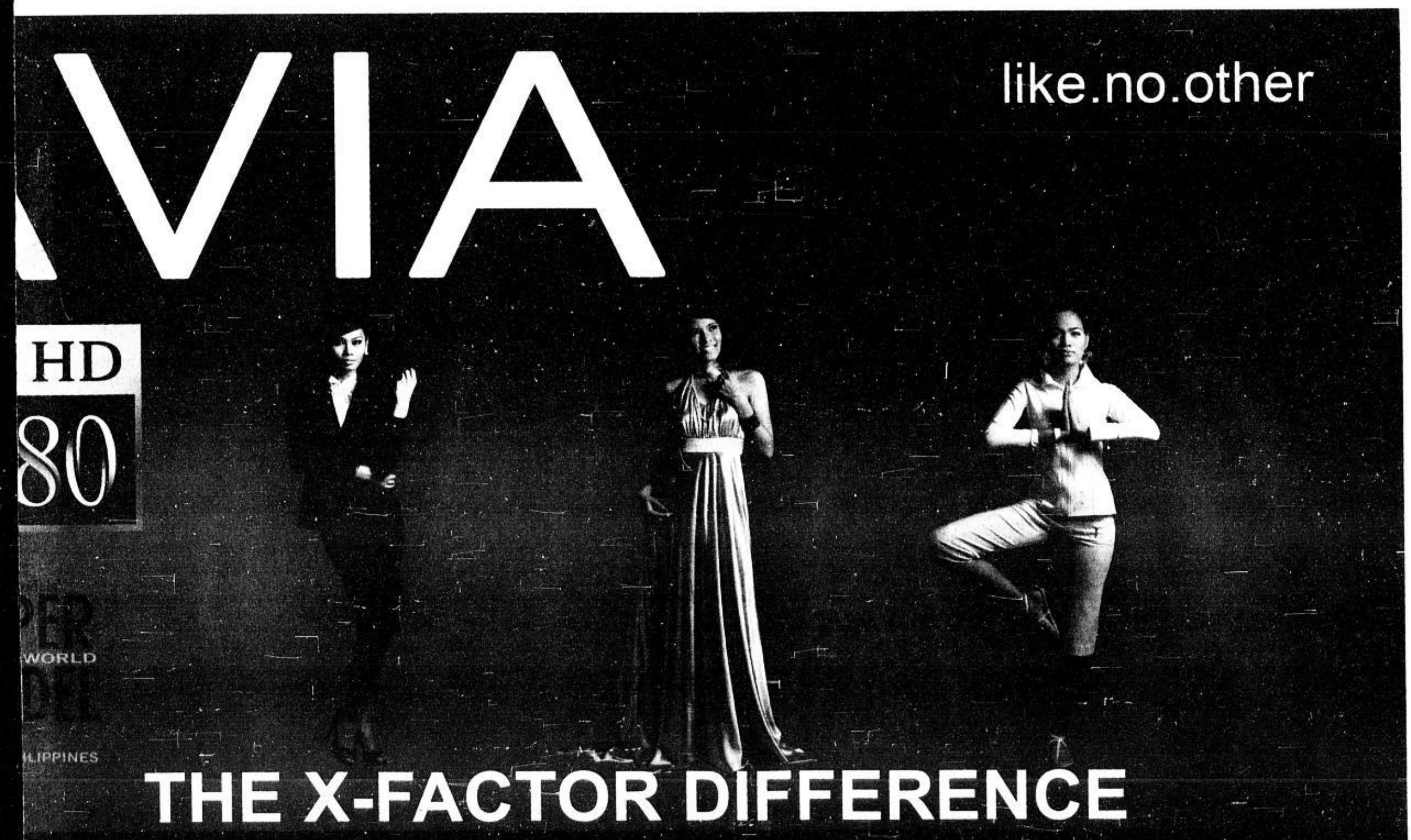
VIA

like.no.other

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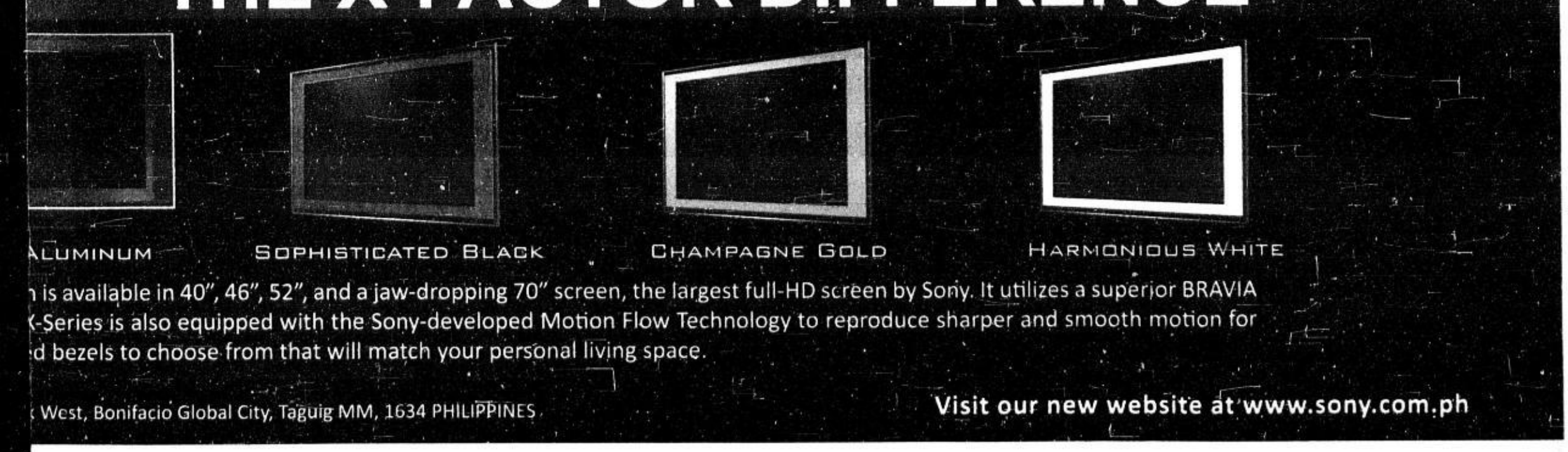


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HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

# Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

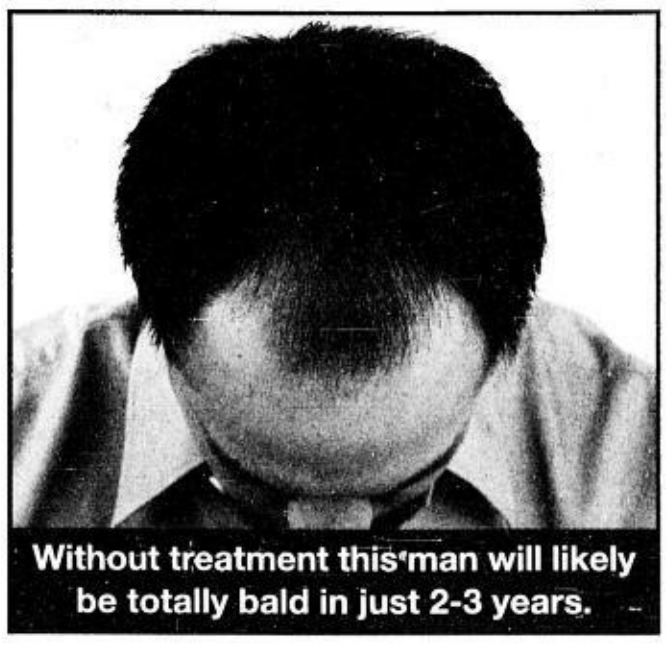
Recent research from top trichologists in the USA reveals that the rate of a man's hairloss can reach about 35,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Based on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right trichological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

If it really disturbs you that you're losing one hair every fifteen minutes, it makes a lot of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Don't wait another 15 minutes and one more hair, call Svenson now for a no-cost consultation today. Telephone 892-4247/ 234-0851 (Cebu).



Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

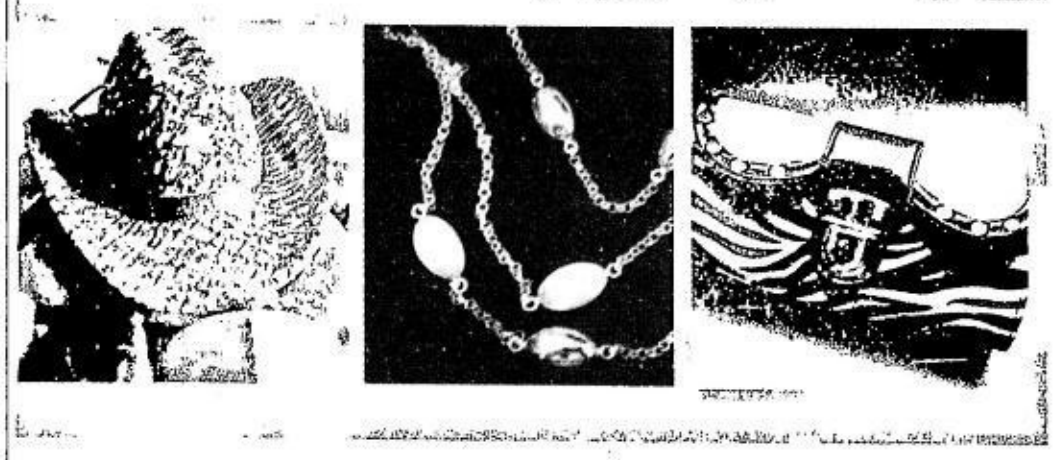

# Go Pinoy!

**What: Global Pinoy Bazaar**
**When: Oct. 21, 2007**
**Where: Rockwell Tent, Makati**

SUPPORT PINOY DESIGNERS AND entrepreneurs as they showcase Pinoy ingenuity and pride!

Enjoy offerings from a host of micro-, medium- and large-scale businesses like Sapato Manila + Coco & Tres, Twinkle Ferraren, Duerr, Sagada Pottery, Red Vanilla, Gail Angeles, V Clothing, Pandango, Cocotini and Pinoy Yoga, among many others.

Celebrate everything good about being a Filipino at the Global Pinoy Bazaar! *Mabuhay*!



# Anne of a thousand looks

**The wait has ended, and the girl behind those taunting teaser eyes on the billboards has been revealed. Now showing: Anne Curtis for Freeway!**

BREATHTAKING period-inspired images of the actress now adorn Freeway stores and billboards all over the country.

An extravagant launch party was also held recently, with a runway show presenting a glimpse of Freeway's Holiday Collection courtesy of design maverick Mel Orlina. Watch out for bright jewel-tone creations, from soft drapes and flowy fabrics like soft jerseys and printed satin, to smart structured pieces like cropped jackets and pea coats.

A common theme among these creations is how flattering they are and, yes, how surprisingly easy on the pocket. Make sure to grab your piece, we heard they are limited!

"I love it, it's so me!" said Anne about the brand. "It has clothes that best express who I am—may it be girly, laid-back, punk, rocker, sporty, basically everything!" There hasn't been a better love affair between a brand and its muse.

DELIGHT IN A FESTIVAL OF FRIGHTS WITH NICKELODEON'S MISCHIEF MADNESS MONTH AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

BEWARE of the SCARE-NIVAL

PLUS A MALL-WIDE TRICK-OR-TREAT AND A WITCHING FUN ON OCTOBER 31!

- **Nickelodeon's "Scare-nival Stations"**
  **North & South Arcades**
  Oct. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, Nov.1-4.
  1pm-8pm

  **The Biggest Halloween games and surprises await kids at the Scare-nival Stations!**

  – Chilling thrills, game booths and various photo-op areas available for FREE!

- **Nick Mischief Madness***
  **Music Hall**
  October 31.
  3pm-9pm

  **The Biggest Halloween Gathering of Nickelodeon characters like Spongebob, Patrick and Dora!**

  – Kids are invited to come in their fabulously scary costumes and have a whole night of fun with their favorite Nickelodeon characters!

- **Trick or Treat**
  **Mall Area**
  October 31.
  10am-2pm, 5pm-7pm

  **The Biggest Mallwide Halloween Trick or Treat activity for kids!**

  – Wear your Halloween costumes, bring your Halloween pails and roam around the mall for exciting treats! Just look for the Nickelodeon Splat on your favorite shops!

- **Jollibee Magical Forest**
  **Mall Area**
  November 4.
  10am onwards

  **The Biggest Halloween Mystical Party filled with Magical Entertainment.**

  – Jollibee celebrates Halloween with mystical forest filled with mythical creatures and fairies!

*For tickets to the Nick Mischief Madness, log on to www.nicksplat.com/mischiefmadness from October 1-15. From October 15-31, 2007, visit participating Toy Kingdom and Toy Express stores and purchase a minimum of P1,000.00 worth of goods inclusive of Halloween toys (Per DTI NCR Permit Number 4106, Series of 2007).

BEAUTY LIFESTYLE

# Lashes are the new lips

INQUIRER's Leica Carpo and Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Contributing editor Ria Francisco-Prieto supports the fight against breast cancer.

LIFE-STYLED
*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

## More and more women are wearing extensions and claiming they're not false

THE LIPS ARE USUALLY A woman's sensual come-on. Think **Marilyn Monroe**, **Angelina Jolie** or **Goldie Hawn** (pre- or post-collagen). These days, however, eyelashes are the new sensual zone.

Last week, I turned to my 30something pretty dinner mate and swooned, "I like your extensions. Where did you have it done?"

Without batting her "extensions," she said, "Uh, they're real." End of subject.

But I could have sworn those lashes were false—they were long, almost curly at the tip, lush and of uniform length. But then they could also have been real. It's really hard to tell the real from the fake these days.

In the '60s, false eyelashes looked so false that they were more like flappers. Women used a gooey substance to glue them on.

In the '80s or '90s, false lashes seemed to have disappeared from the face of the earth. Then a few years ago, they were back. About two years ago, a few women started trekking to the salon to try this new generation of eyelash extensions.

Today, the trend is already so mainstream (thanks to the **Ricky Reyes** salon chain's clientele volume) that you get all kinds of eyelash look—feathery white, glittery gold... just take a look at **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** when she's in her fine costume hardware. (Shu Uemura has an interesting range.)

At the salon, girls have these lashes "woven" into their real lashes. But maintenance is tricky. They itch sometimes (the lashes, not the girls), and some go back to the salon for retouching, even "shampoo."

Others who find maintenance a hassle just glue them on.

These days those lush, long lashes are not only a style statement, they're also meant to lure, the way lips do. You pucker your lips. You flap your extension. Same banana. (Pun not intended.)

If you're happy with your God-given set, be grateful. Two weeks ago, my metrosexual friend was lighting up his stove when—to cut the episode short—it exploded in his face. It burnt his lashes, brows and bits of his front mane. Lucky him—at least no collateral damage. But, he whined, "I look like the bride of Frankenstein!"

"At least bride pa *rin*." I told him.

### This is luscious

Speaking of luscious lips, an ageless beauty with one of the most luscious lips in Manila hosted us at a small dinner. It was one of the most interesting dinners—to put it mildly—I've had in a while.

Her main guest was one of Manila's, how do we put it, "headline baddies"—the bad guy in the news. (It's not apt to use "notorious" because notoriety has become commonplace.) It was our first time to meet this bad-guy icon, and the first time, too, to taste his *bacalao*.

The guy could really cook. And—more important to style slaves that we are—had we had more time and gumption, we could have asked him what moisturizer he was using. Or, I think we did but he never got around to answering it, because he was busy narrating to the

LASHES/ E4

The tradition of luxury lives on...

Rustan's
SINCE 1952

# Whiter skin is just a session away

MAKEOVER 911
*Kinny Salas*

AS A CHILD, ONE thing I was always being complimented on was having very white and poreless oriental skin.

People were not as educated about the importance of sunblock back then, so we played outside and hung out on the beach for hours.

My *mestiza* friends freckled while I just got darker and eventually, when it faded, my skin just never got back to how light it originally was.

For about five years now my obsession with whitening products continues to grow and my face has come closest to my baby shade due to the numerous face-brightening products available.

My requirements of any treatment: 1) No coarse peeling that leaves skin sore like a freshly popped blister which may leave permanent scarring; and 2) it has to show obvious results in the minimum amount of time so my body, especially my arms and back, can catch up to the shade of my face and torso.

Philosophy by Mikaela's research and development team headed by Dr. Phoebe Pacheco has come up with a very safe and painless intensive body-whitening treatment that includes micro-scrub peeling and bleaching; it is called the Instawhite program that costs P5,880 per session.

Just one session, which takes two hours, shows noticeable results. Every step has a potent whitening ingredient incorporated in it in a super-concentrated serum form. All ingredients passed Japan's Food and Drug Administration with flying colors (Japan's is stricter than the American FDA rules).

The first thing they made me do was take a quick shower. I suggest you wash your hair as well because the next time you will be allowed to shower is the next morning.

Then you are left for a 10-minute sauna to open the pores so your skin can take in the most whitening ingredients.

**BELO Essentials Whitening Lotion with SPF 15**

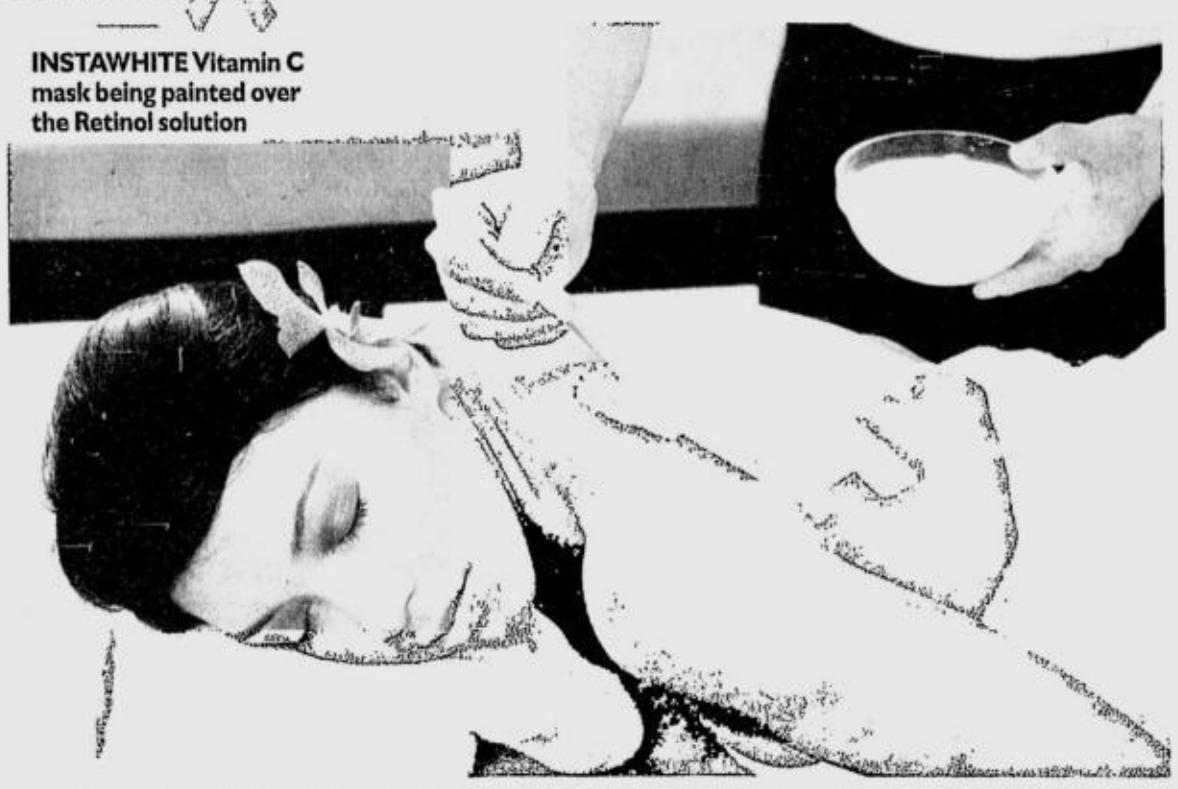
**WHITENING Body Bar big and small**

## Scrub

The Arbutin Body Scrub is then applied to the entire body with concentration on the areas prone to be darker like the knees, elbows, groin, armpits, ankles, etc. The treatment is left on for five minutes.

Arbutin is now the hottest whitening ingredient in Japan. It provides whitening, anti-aging and UVB and UVC filters, among other benefits.

After rinsing off, you are painted evenly with the Retinol solution from neck down, followed by a Vitamin C masque which will be left on for 20 minutes, serving to repair past skin damage and to stimulate collagen production so even-toned, soft and baby-smooth skin will be restored.



**INSTAWHITE Vitamin C mask being painted over the Retinol solution**

After another rinsing, you will be made to soak into a Jacuzzi while vials of Glutathione solution are poured in while you bubble up.

While I was left alone for 20 minutes, I made sure not to let my problem areas (knees, arms, elbows and feet) out of the water. Occasionally I even dunked my face in for seconds at a time, getting my hair all matted with white powdery stuff when it dried.

When Dolly came back, she told me to lie down while she massaged me, Swedish-style, with Glutathione body cream. It was a whitening fanatic's heaven on earth. When I got home I realized even the fine hairs on my arms turned blonde.

## Morning after

I did not put on whitening lotion so I woke up to very dry arms and legs skin and some areas even looked darker!

On closer inspection, I realized the dead skin cells were clumping up on the surface, ready to be exfoliated. As soon as they were gone the day after, the new white pinkish skin really came out.

Very fine and unnoticeable peeling all over went on for two weeks while tiny flakes would fly off me at times. But I was happiest with the knees that really became as white as the rest of my legs.

For those who are already fair-skinned but want to be even-toned, they can have the treatment every month.

Those who are dark and want drastic whitening can have it done every week at most to give skin time to peel completely. The 10-session package costs P50,000, which is cheaper than the P5,880 tab per session.

Instawhite Body Lotion (P5,000) and Body Cream (P5,500) are available on counter. Call Philosophy at 8921574 or 8185401/7469.

Those looking for alternative maintenance products may try the Body Cleansing and Lotion, Belo Essentials Body Bar (Pink or Blue variants), Mistine body wash and whitening lotion, Godiva Glycerin body bar and Licorice lotion, and Essence Skin Bar Kojic (soap only available at Robinson's Galleria).

For deodorant, Mistine prevents darkening, body odor and slows down hair growth on underarms while Nivea whitening spray does not stain clothes nor feel sticky.

When outdoors, apply Sunblock SPF 30 on exposed areas.

cut & keep

# Makeup

**A BIT of blush would make a big difference in your total look.**

**Text and makeup by Barbi Chan**
*Contributor*

IF YOU'RE DOING STRONG eye-and-lip makeup, then you might not need blush at all. But would you believe me if I tell you that you can get a great look with cheek and lip color alone, with nothing but foundation on the eyes? The whole idea here is balance. Your face has three areas to emphasize. The cheeks, lips and eyes. You don't want to go overboard and emphasize all three and end up looking dirty (makeup-wise).

A bit of blush would make a big difference in your total look. It is very important to apply blush over a compatible surface. Cream blush, cream bronzers, liquid tints and gels should go over a creamy foundation. Powder blush should go over a powdered face. Never use powder before applying cheek tints. The powder will grab the liquid and you won't be able to blend it.

There are four different blusher types. Look for one that is most suitable for your skin type.

1. Cream—most popular because of its dewy finish. Suitable for dry skin and very easy to apply. Better to use your fingertips or a sponge. Just pat on to the apple of your cheeks.

2. Powder—versatile and long-wearing, it is usually applied with a large brush. This is good for oilier skin. Do not forget to shake off the excess powder before you apply it to your face. Artdeco Bronze Era Collection is a good alternative for people who have darker skin tone and who can't wear pinks or peachy blushers. It has shimmer that would highlight your natural skin tone and give you that sun-kissed look.

3. Liquid stains—Great for all skin types. Provide staying power and sort of adapts your natural skin tone. Quite tricky to apply though because it dries quickly. I suggest that you blend it on your fingers first before applying it to your cheeks. Mistine Liquid Cheek and Lip Tint is what I personally use. Very sheer and very natural-looking.

4. Gels—easy to control than liquid and works well with all skin types, too. Apply it the same way you apply your liquid stains. One new discovery recently was Smashbox O-Glow Microcirculating Cheek Color. This product is quite revolutionary because it mimics your own cheek color. It is the first "intuitive blush" meaning it reacts to your skin's chemistry and turns your cheeks the exact color you blush. It is also full of vitamins like goji berry, Vitamin C ginkgo, biloba. You can wear it over makeup or on bare skin.

There's another type of blusher that's out in the market, too. It's the mousse type. It's a combination of the powder and gel blusher. Very easy to apply and it has a powdery finish. Maybelline's Dream Mousse Blush is one of the best I've tried. It is very easy to blend and the colors are really for Asian skin, too.

*E-mail the author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com*

# Top skin-care clinic marks 13th anniversary

BIOESSENCE STARTED OPERations 13 years ago with only a three-bed clinic (two for facials and one for massage) in Marfori Heights, Davao City, in 1994. Today, it's a leading beauty clinic with branches all over the country.

"The popularity of Bioessence for several years now is not only due to marketing efforts, but mainly because of our customers' pleasant experiences," Dr. Emma Guerrero, Bioessence president, said.

Catering to the middle- to high-end market, Bioessence has services that start for P800 (for Active Purifying and Advanced Clarifying facials), P1,200 (for Diamond Peel), and P2,500 (for Miracle Lift and Oxygen facial). Its Cellulite Massage starts for P600 while its Celluwave Treatment goes for P1,200.

Bioessence also caters to the mass market. In 1999, it opened its subsidiary company, Facialhaus, which now has branches in Makati and Cainta.

In 2000, it started Facialplus in Caloocan, Naga, Legaspi, and Roxas.

Bioessence takes pride in its brand of customer care. "We attend to the customers as they come to us on schedule, and follow up on them after the treatments they availed. We make sure they take care of what we advised them. In other words, *may pakialam kami sa* clients *namin*," Guerrero said.

**BIOESSENCE'S top services include facial treatments.**

Bioessence's top services include facials (Clarifying and Purifying), oxygen facials (the only one in the market, with Bioessence as the exclusive distributor of oxygen botanicals), skin peeling, massage (among other spa services), and slimming (G-5 Vibratrim, Byo-wrap, Tummy Firm, Faradic, Liposome Treatment, S.W.E.A.T., Cellulite Massage, and Turkish Bath Sauna).

Bioessence has also produced skincare products like soaps, anti-ageing, whitening, slimming, essential oils, among others.

Bioessence services are for both women and men.

While it adheres to natural means, Bioessence also knows that technology is fast becoming a tool to aid beauty and skincare. It makes use of IV-Glutathione, an intravenous skin lightening treatment that provides faster the desired results versus orally taken Glutathione and other whitening brands.

Bioessence also offers spa services, via Bioessence Serenity Spa at 2F, Fox Square Building, Connecticut Drive, Greenhills.

Bioessence also recently introduced European Spa Facial, which combines six pampering and therapeutic massage treatments with specialized products.

Currently, Bioessence has 20 outlets nationwide, nine of them in SM malls in Southmall, Bacoor, Marilao, Lucena, Megamall, Fairview, Pampanga and Baguio.

Bioessence has six franchised outlets in SM malls in Megamall, Fairview, Pampanga, Baguio, Angeles, and Zamboanga; one Facialhaus outlet in Angeles, and six Facialplus franchises in Novaliches, Araneta Center, Retiro, Naga, Legaspi and Roxas.

**NUTRITIONAL beauty products**

**BOBBIE Diamond Collection offers the most complete line of nail-care products.**

## Nail-care essentials

FROM BOBBIE NAIL Cosmetics, an industry leader for over 20 years, comes a complete set of essential nail implements called Bobbie Diamond Tools.

These are made of high-quality materials, at par with internationally recognized brands and available at very affordable prices.

Use Bobbie Diamond's Fingernail Clipper and Toenail Clipper to trim nails safely and smoothly.

For unsightly cuticles, the tool of choice is the 2-in-1 Cuticle Trimmer and Pusher, with one end for trimming cuticles safely and a rubber pusher on the other to clean excess polish on nails.

The 2-in-1 Nail File and Cuticle Trimmer effectively trims cuticles and shapes and smoothens nails' rough edges.

Lastly, the 2-in-1 Nail Buffer and Brush smoothens and shines nails even without polish. The brush on one end of this unique tool sweeps dirt off the sides of the nails.

Bobbie Diamond Collection offers the most complete line of nail-care products in the industry. Its 3 Cs of nail care—Color (polish), Care (tools) and Cure (treatments)—do not only give instant beauty to nails, but also infuses protein and vitamin-enriched ingredients to nourish nails and make them stronger and healthier.

Check out the Bobbie Diamond Collection at Watson's branches.

# Fresh beauties

BEAU Garrett

GLOBAL BEAUTY BRAND Revlon recently signed up Hollywood hot stars Jessica Alba and Beau Garrett as its newest endorsers. They join the elite group of glamorous, sexy and talented women who have graced Revlon's ad campaigns, which include Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry, supermodel and actress Eva Mendes, and singer Sheryl Crow.

The exotic Jessica Alba, who has starred in "Sin City" and the action blockbuster "Fantastic Four," will also participate in the annual Revlon Run/Walk in May and other company-sponsored initiatives about breast cancer.

"I'm honored to be joining the Revlon family," she says. "Revlon celebrates diverse, dynamic women of every walk of life, and I'm proud to be associated with a company that is so involved with women's causes and issues."

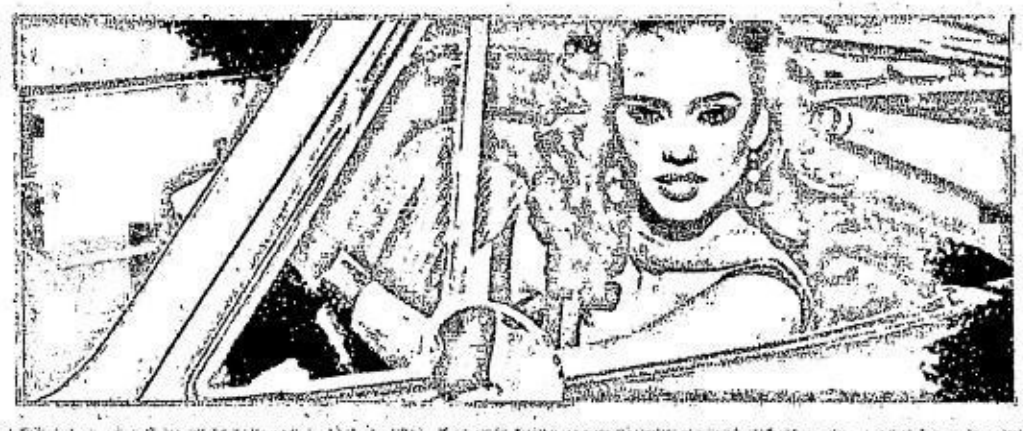
A beautiful and talented star on the rise, Beau Garrett received Hollywood Life Magazine's Exciting New Face award at the annual Young Hollywood Awards in April. California-born and bred, Beau made her film debut in the thriller "Turistas" in December 2006. She co-starred with Alba in "Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer," and has finished "Live!," an independent movie starring another Revlon model, Eva Mendes.

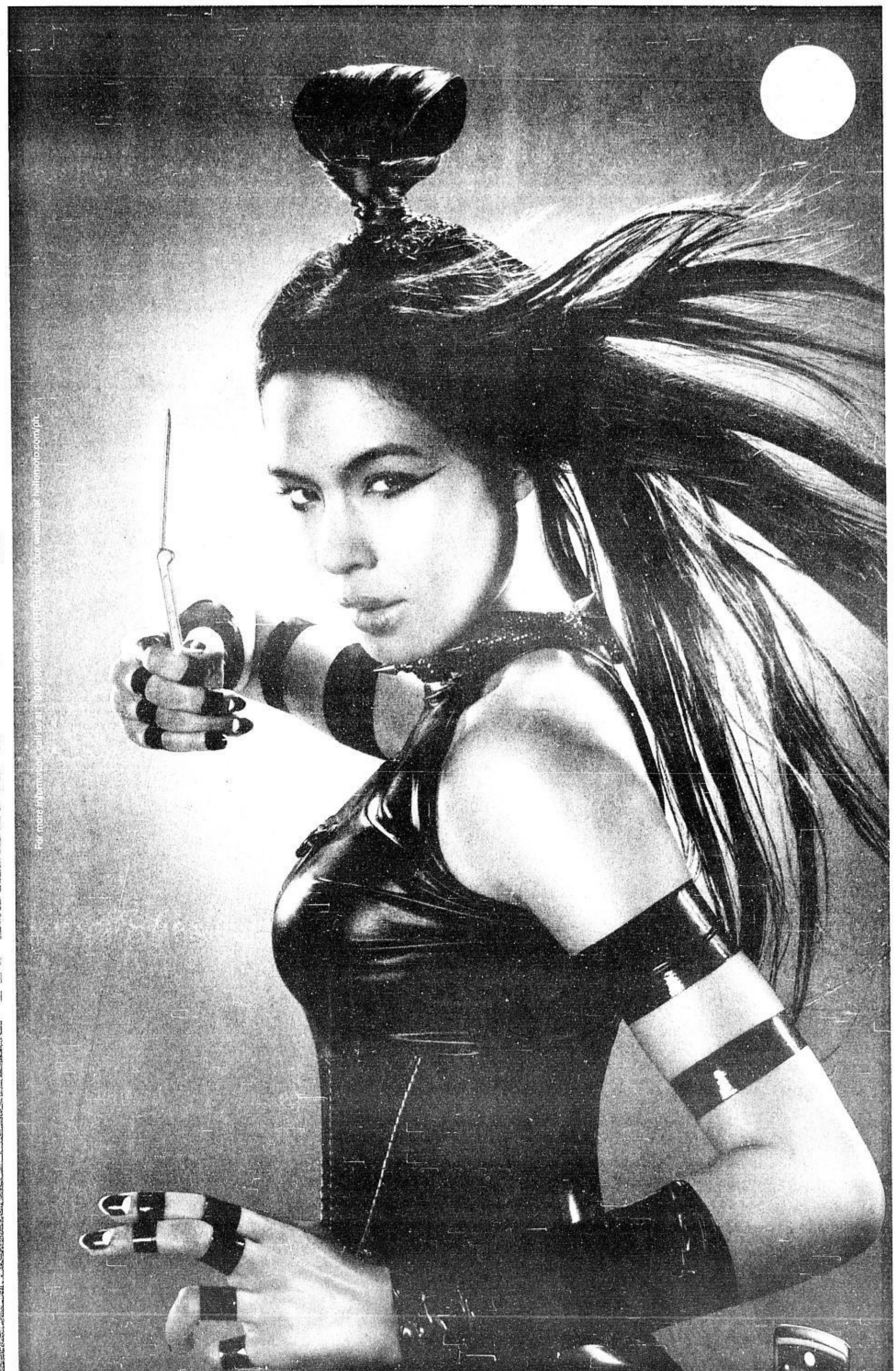
Garrett will join Alba and other members of Revlon's family of beautiful women in the brand's various events. She will soon be seen in ad campaigns for exciting new Revlon products to be released in 2008.

Revlon, one of the most recognized beauty brands around the world, is a dynamic leader in cosmetics, skincare and personal care products. Revlon is available at Watson's, Mercury Drug, Robinson's, Cinderella, PCX, Landmark and other leading department stores nationwide.

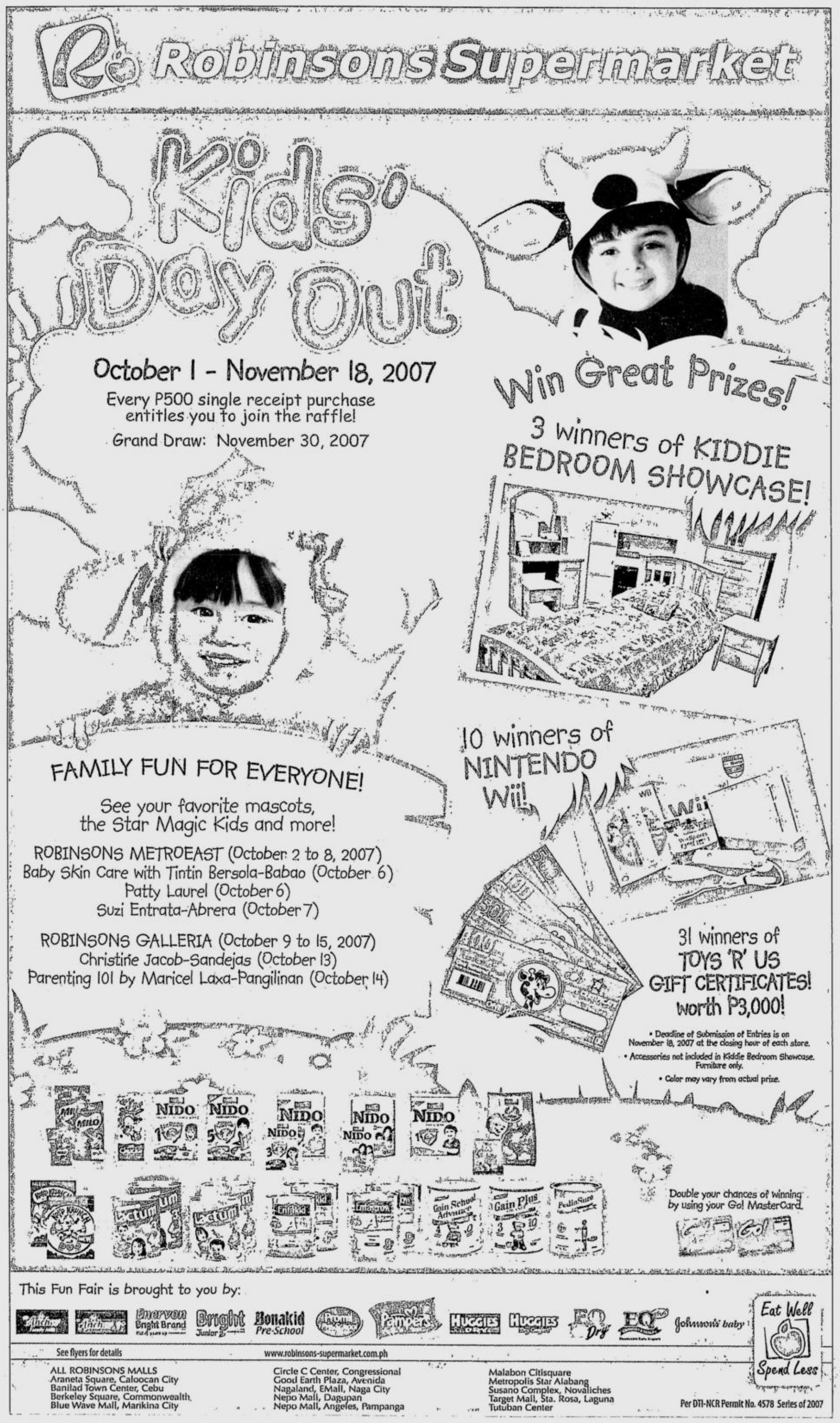
ALBA

JESSICA Alba





AT THE salon, girls have these lashes "woven" into their real lashes.




# Lashes are the new lips

From page E1

table how he had been able to stay alive all these years, while ducking the question who really would want to do him in.

The guy looks much younger and more good-looking in person than in the news—boyish, buff in a black tee, so fair-skinned. What also made the intimate dinner unique was that another guest—one of the smoothest and richest voices around—was crooning romantic standards right at dinner table. That's not to say, however, that romance was in the air between our bad-news icon and hostess. Chemistry perhaps.

Our hosts were seeing us off in the lift when one of us finally popped the question—"So are you two together?" The lady gave a coy smile, but the guy gestured what seemed an embarrassed, if not frantic, "No" with his hand, when the lift doors closed on us. Talk of timing.

## Good news for smokers

At that same dinner, there was another character, our chain-smoking friend who was ingenious enough to find a smoker's spot in the high-rise, and who had the patience to go down from our stratosphere just for a nicotine fix. Our friend is threatening to publish a smoker's guide in the metro.

There's good news for inveterate nicotine addicts like him. Pfizer has just launched a Canadian brand, Champix, which targets nicotine receptors previously created by smoking. It stimulates the same effect nicotine has on the body, at the same time blocking the receptors.

The result is reduced craving. Unlike other anti-smoking drugs, it does not deliver any more nicotine in the body.

That should work on my friend—that and a solid love life.

## Movements everywhere

I don't know what's right—or wrong—with this cycle of the year, people are either moving on or just moving. **Anna Sobrepeña**, the charming and indefatigable soulmate of **Chito**, is now editor of Lifestyle Asia.

Welcome to the exciting world of publishing, Anna, welcome to living glamorously and dangerously.

One night at Chelsea, I was surprised when **Francis Flores** told me he was leaving Unilever, where he was a most dynamic and fast-rising brand manager (promoted to the region at 30 years old), to join Jollibee as vice president for marketing. The challenge of working for a global Filipino brand was just irresistible for him.

Our dinner mate, **Albert Almendralejo** then announced that, after seeing the San Beda Lions through to the NCAA championship (with Fr. **Abbott Ed Africa**'s wise and spiritual counsel, of course, and **Manny Pangilinan**'s solid, awesome support), he's studying moviemaking at "Big Foot." From television (GMA7) to event organizing (Lovapalooza), on to the movies—that's quite a trip.

Of course, Albert and Francis' jaws dropped when I told them about me.

Other developments:

**Gigi Mabanta** is gone from Rustan's and should be at SM by now.

**Lia Bernardo** is now marketing and advertising head of Rustan's and has never looked lovelier. That's both job and love.

**Angie Limbaco** has left Samsung and is off to New York on a solo adventure.

Edsa Shangri-La's **Neil Rumbaoa** is moving to Shangri-La in Dubai, while **Maggie Garcia** is moving to Boracay at the end of the year to be Shangri-La's resident manager there.

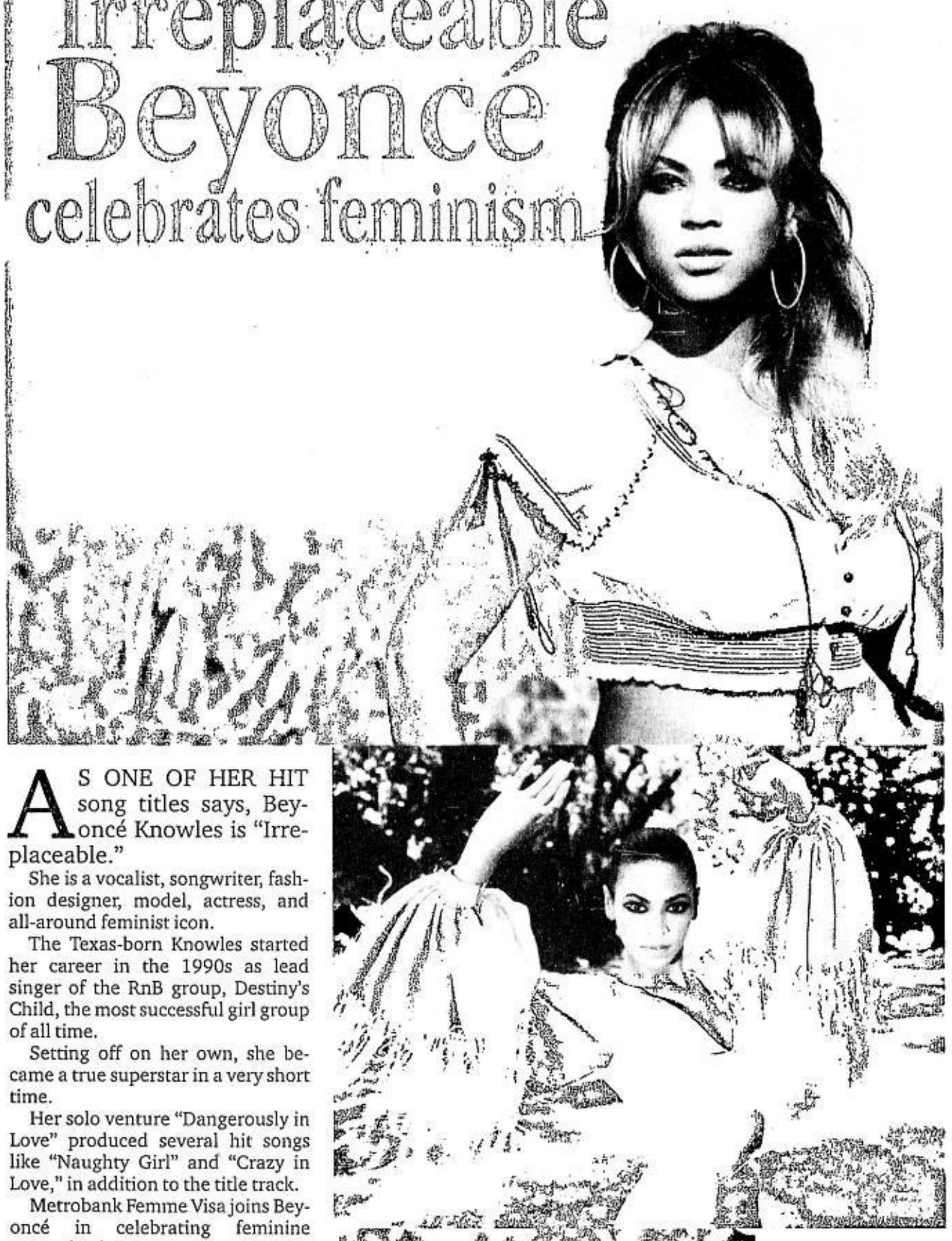
# LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

**Text us your feedback:**
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# Irreplaceable Beyoncé celebrates feminism



AS ONE OF HER HIT song titles says, Beyoncé Knowles is "Irreplaceable."

She is a vocalist, songwriter, fashion designer, model, actress, and all-around feminist icon.

The Texas-born Knowles started her career in the 1990s as lead singer of the RnB group, Destiny's Child, the most successful girl group of all time.

Setting off on her own, she became a true superstar in a very short time.

Her solo venture "Dangerously in Love" produced several hit songs like "Naughty Girl" and "Crazy in Love," in addition to the title track.

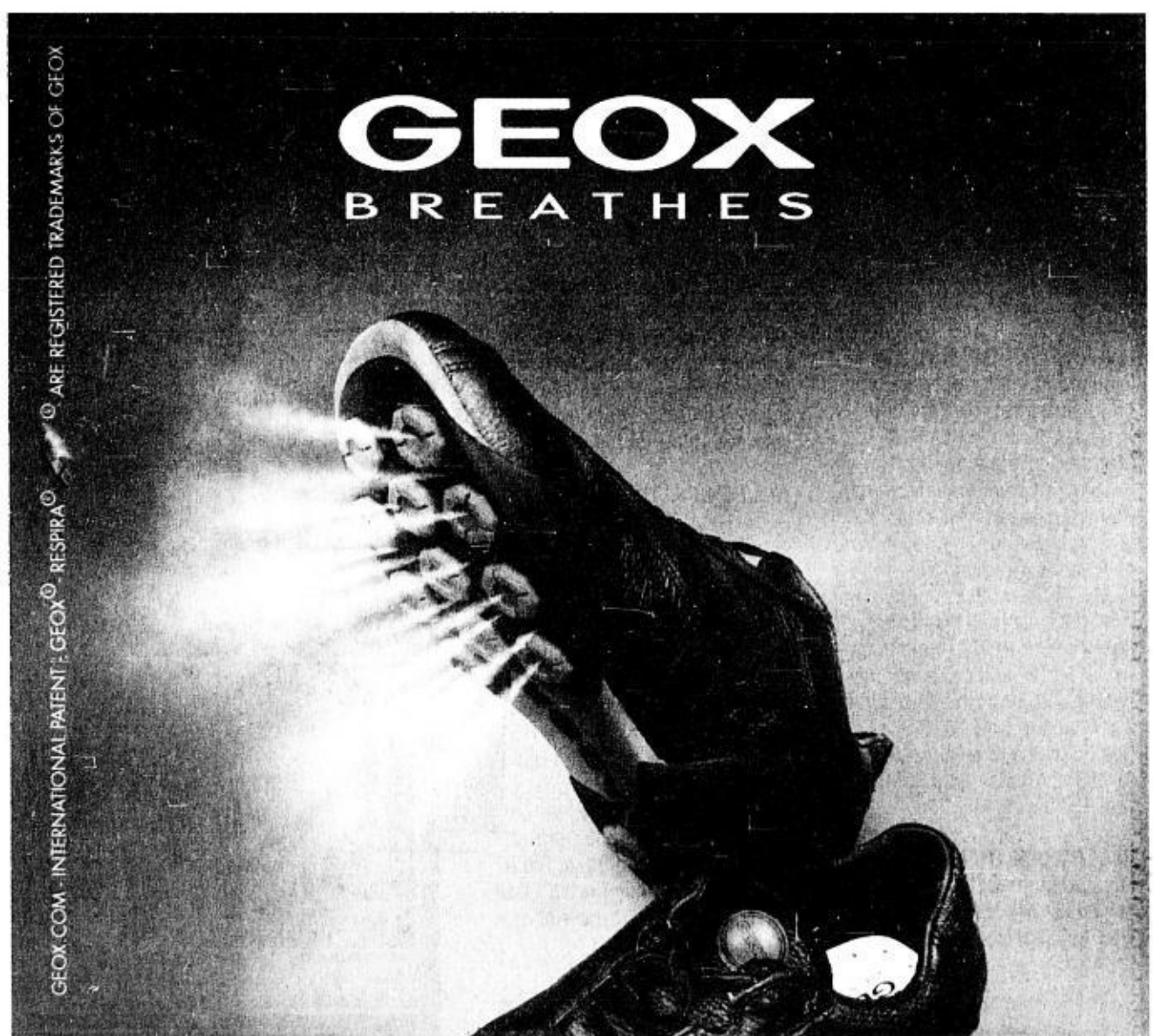
Metrobank Femme Visa joins Beyoncé in celebrating feminine strength—being a woman who knows what she wants and what she is worth.

Several of Beyoncé's songs are all about women empowerment like "Survivor," "Bills, Bills, Bills," and "Irreplaceable" itself that has become a phenomenal hit.

Metrobank Femme Visa is a credit card that aims to empower women, while aiding her in her various roles and duties. Especially designed for today's working woman, the Metrobank Femme Visa has features that help with her credit needs as she tries to make a difference in the world.

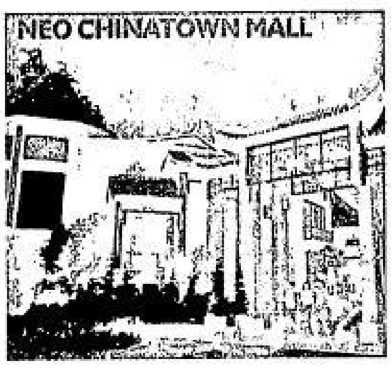
Catch Beyoncé, the irreplaceable diva, in her Philippine concert at the Fort Bonifacio grounds on Nov. 7.

If you use your Metrobank Femme Visa credit card to buy your tickets, you get a chance to avail of special limited seats at 10-percent discount.



# GOINGS ON

## New bayside shopping mall




NEO CHINATOWN MALL IS holding a two-day soft-launch festivity Oct. 20-21. The mall is on Bradco Avenue corner Disodado Macapagal Boulevard, Parañaque City. In accordance with Chinese tradition, lion and dragon dances will be performed by the Ling Nam Athletic Association. Also scheduled are wushu exhibitions, musical performances by a Chinese orchestra, free palm-reading and a display of traditional Chinese icons. Inspired by Shanghai, Neo Chinatown (tels. 8531797 and 8533848) is a one-stop shopping haven offering items from China.

**MANILA'S FIVE LOVELIEST.** The Love 14 Foundation's Manila's Five Loveliest for 2008 were proclaimed recently at a gala charity ball at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La. They are Cristina Afzelius, Carla Rosanna Aranaz, Marie Veronique Boncan, Jean Fernando and Jeane Catherine Napoles. Manila's Five Loveliest is the major annual fund-raising event of the Love 14 Foundation that marked its 20th anniversary this year. Proceeds of the event will support the scholarship and medical projects of the foundation, which has Irene Martel-Francisco as chair emeritus; Nini Licaros, chair; and Jenny Napoles, president. Other officers are Therese Coronel-Santos, Nini Valdez, Becky Garcia and Donnie Ramirez. The charity ball was directed by Raymond Villanueva.

**UE PLAY.** The UE College of Education is staging a new interpretation of the Paul Dumol play, "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio," on Oct. 19, 1 and 3 p.m. at the UE Conference Hall, 4/F, Dalupan Bldg., C. M. Recto Avenue, Manila. Playing the characters of the play are students of UE's Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences. Joshua John Angeles plays the lead role as Mang Serapio. Professor Edwina Bensal is adviser. The treatment of the play incorporates the elements of modern-day TV game shows to highlight both the entertaining and the distressing facets of a beggar's life and make the play abreast with the times. Admission is free. Call the UE College of Education at 735 5471 to 81 loc 453.

**PERFORMANCE.** World-class flamenco dancer and multi-awarded choreographer Clara Ramona will perform classical Spanish dance and flamenco at the Hong Kong Cultural Arts Center on Oct. 19 and 20. Call 0915-4345789.

**LIVELIHOOD TRAINING.** Free livelihood and entrepreneurship courses are being offered this October at Starmall Edsa Shaw and Metropolis Star Alabang. The Mr. Sipag at Tiyaga Caravan Libreng Pangkabuhayan Workshop is a project of Senate President Manny Villar. It is presented every Saturday. At Starmall Edsa (tel. 7244992), Oct. 20 will feature lessons in stuffed toy-making while Oct. 27 will cover holiday goodies. Topic at the Metropolis Star Alabang (8422513) for Oct. 20 is still to be announced. On Oct. 27 the subject is Stuffed Toy-Making.

**HALLOWEEN TREATS.** Starmall Edsa presents Oct. 21 at 3 p.m., Jollibee's Masquerade Party and Trick or Treat to mark Halloween at the 2L Activity Area. Kids wearing costumes of spooky, super hero or fairytale characters have a chance to win in Jollibee's "Best in Costume" award. Special kiddie gift packs and surprises await the winners. Trick or Treat follows the Jollibee Masquerade Party. Kids get bags of goodies each from participating establishments in the mall (tel. 7244992).

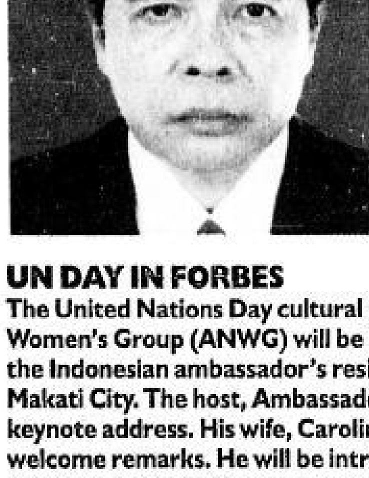
**1ST DRUMBEATING CONTEST.** Sigaboom 2007, the first SM City Bacolod Tribal Drumbeating competition, will be held Oct. 21 on Rizal St., Bacolod City. Ten groups from all over Negros Occidental are competing. They are the E.B. Magalona Ugyunan Drumbeaters, Tribu Yab-Yab Doongol of Cadiz City, Tribu Roberto S. Benedicto, Tribu Tres and Tribu Dos of La Carlota City, Carpenteros and Brgy. Mansilingan Drumbeaters of Bacolod City, Tribu Ilahas and Tribu Tinabua-ay of Murcia, and Patik Minulu-an of Talisay City.

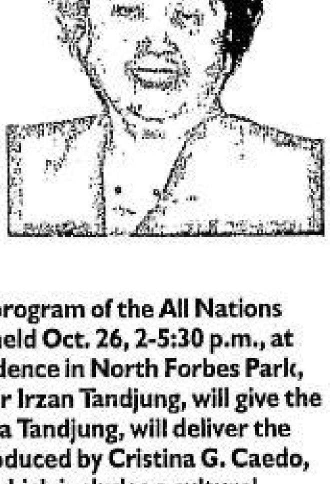
**EXHIBIT.** The exhibit "Matters of Feeling: Point Blank" is ongoing until Oct. 24 at the Food and Art Galerie, 12/F GT Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. It features the works of Leanderel Miranda, Andelino Marzan, Jr., Ediefer Gutierrez and Dick Jose Santos. Miranda offers prints of pencil drawings with digital enhancements while Gutierrez's works reflect his experimentation with medium. Santos works with acrylic and Marzan does unusual renditions of familiar scenes.

**SEMINAR.** Leading Kabbalah instructor David Ghiyam will be in Manila to give lecture on "Basics in Reincarnation," Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., at The Loft, 38/F, Manansala, Rockwell, Makati. Call 0922-7681040 or e-mail philippines@kabbalah.com or visit www.kabbalah.com/philippines.

**ANNIVERSARY.** The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) celebrates its 20th founding anniversary on Oct. 27 in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. A series of activities are lined up featuring a lecture on "Lighting Basics." Call 5247576, 5280371, 5255792 or e-mail fotoatwork@gmail.com.

**HOLY MASS.** The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls (PWHS), a world-wide apostolate of the Monfort Foundation, Inc., has initiated nine-day novena prayers for the holy souls and Mass for the faithful departed on All Souls Day, Nov. 2, 9:45 a.m. at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy, Maysilo Circle, Mandaluyong City. The PWHS is also organizing an advent recollection for its members on Nov. 24 at the Worship Hall of the Spirit of Love Catholic Community, Manila Seedling Bank, Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, QC. Call 5310394, 5312157 loc 100 or 0918-9290603.

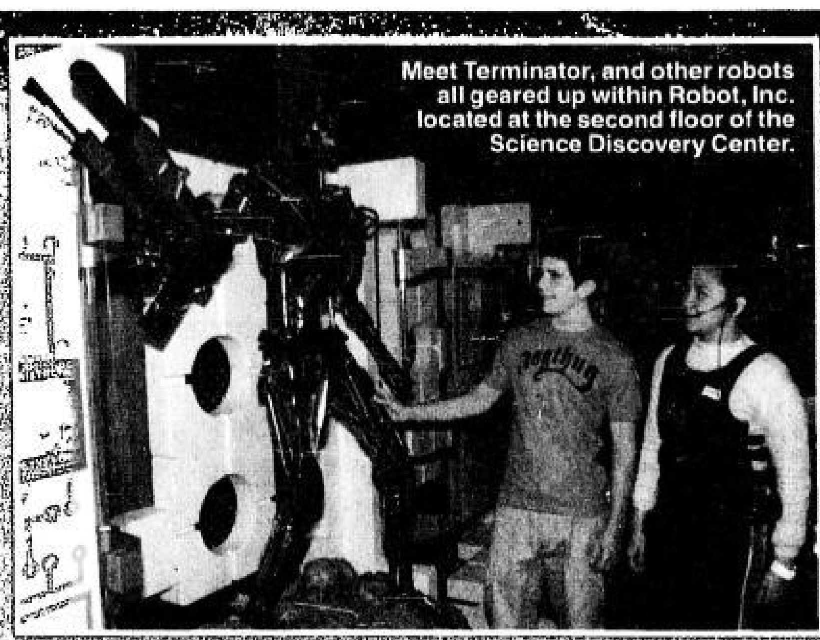




**UN DAY IN FORBES**

**The United Nations Day cultural program of the All Nations Women's Group (ANWG) will be held Oct. 26, 2-5:30 p.m., at the Indonesian ambassador's residence in North Forbes Park, Makati City. The host, Ambassador Irzan Tandjung, will give the keynote address. His wife, Carolina Tandjung, will deliver the welcome remarks. He will be introduced by Cristina G. Caedo, ANWG president. The program, which includes a cultural presentation, will be highlighted by a parade of costumes. Overall chair of the program is Villa Granada de Guia. Co-chair is Ditas Posadas.**

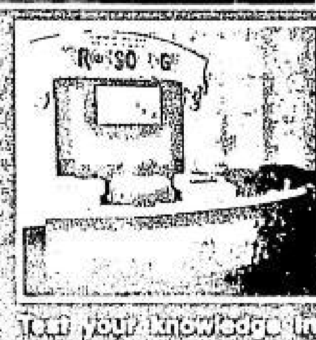
Mindstorm Robotics Center is located at the second floor of the Science Discovery Center.



Meet Terminator, and other robots all geared up within Robot, Inc. located at the second floor of the Science Discovery Center.

High tech meets fantasy at the Image Port where you are able to transform your photos into a dream experience.

Guests will get a chance to see what pilots can see as they enter the cockpit of a real airplane in Flight Simulator.



Test your knowledge in terms of grossness and compete with friends in Let's Play Grossology.

# SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTER OPENS OCT 19 AT THE SM MALL OF ASIA

Kids of all ages will have the chance to experience tomorrow's technology today when the **Science Discovery Center** opens on Friday, October 19 at the SM Mall of Asia. Located at the South Side of the mall's Entertainment Building, this will be an exciting new attraction to what is envisioned to be the premiere destination mall in the Pacific Region.

Eye catching. Modern. Cutting Edge. Futuristic. Amazing.. These are the words that best describe the **Science Discovery Center**. As you enter, you will transported into outer space as you are welcomed by Tagi, the Science Discovery Center's own robot.

Flashing floor lights trace the path leading to the **Science Discovery Center's** dazzling attraction. These include the **Image Port, The Transportation Nation, Robot, Inc., Spaceship Earth, The Virtual Reef, The City's Science Exhibit, the Earthquake Simulator,** and the **Digistar Planetarium**.

The life begins with the Life Clock, where one can get one-stop information about fun facts and news, the environment, event announcements, and so much more.

The **Image Port**, which is located at the left corner of the entrance, is a have for digital photography buffs. It focuses on all things related to the lens - from cameras to videocams to mobile phones. Found out about the latest gadgets and learn the future of digital imaging at the **Image Port**.

Here high tech meets fantasy, as you are able transform your digital photos into a dream experience. You can dress the part in costumes at the play area and chose your background, whether it be a giant lizard, a swarm of bees, or even the Eiffel Tower. The best part is that you can take home copes of your experience in pictures or in CD.

**Transport Nation** is all about travel. Get a glimpse of the history of trains and ocean liners in the area's webcam walls. Here, one has the chance of to experience what the pilots see on air as they enter the cockpit of an airplane. Even more thrilling is the opportunity to view what may well be on the road soon, as well as fun facts that show how new technology ca create vehicles that run faster without damaging the environment.

Robot Inc. highlights some of the world's most popular robots. These include *Astroboy*, the star of the first Japanese animated series with an ongoing plot: *Robot 9*, a regular cast member of the TV series Lost in Space; and Robby the Robot, who appeared in several movies in the 1950's and 1960's beginning with MGM's **Forbidden Planet in 1956**. Likewise, guests can also interact with remote control robots, animated the center's very own Spiderbots through joysticks.

The **Virtual Reef** highlights the wonder and beauty of marine life in the Philippines. Guests are transported to life under the sea and can experience the reflections of light shimmer, sounds of ocean echo, and bubbles flowing freely towards the sky without even having to get wet.

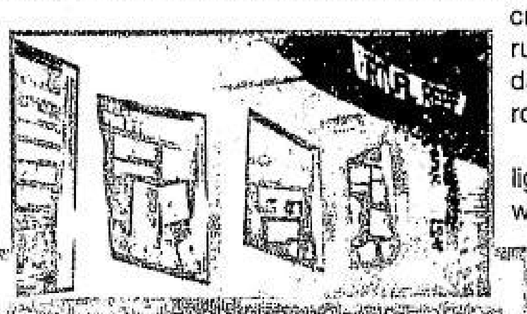
There's an aquarium made up of light and magic, filled with coral and fish indigenous to waters to the Philippines. At the center of the Virtual Reef Exhibit is the coral well with animated fish.

Other attractions that literally bring one down to earth: **Spaceship Earth** where guests can feel they have entered the belly of the universe; the **Earthquake Simulator** platform that shows how tremors can rock the world; and the **City Science** exhibit; that showcases the magnificence of modern architecture and design through scale models of landmarks like the Burj Building in Dubai.

The **Digistar Planterium** takes one on a journey to space with its interactive full-dome and real time graphics. The 15 meter 160 seating capacity **Digistar Planetarium** creates environments that completely immerse the audience in images and sounds that will both entertain and educate them.

One of the Planetarium's attractions is its line up of movies. These include *The Search for Life: Are we Alone*: which documents how people ages ago sought answers in the stars; and *Darkstar Avenue*, a story about Subrah and her robot helper who are in a voyage of discovery to planet Bekenal. *The Future is Wild* is about an international team of researchers who have been looking into how animals and plants will evolve over the next 5 to 200 million years; while the *Mystery of the Christmas Star* seeks a scientific explanation about the Star of Bethlehem which the Magi followed.

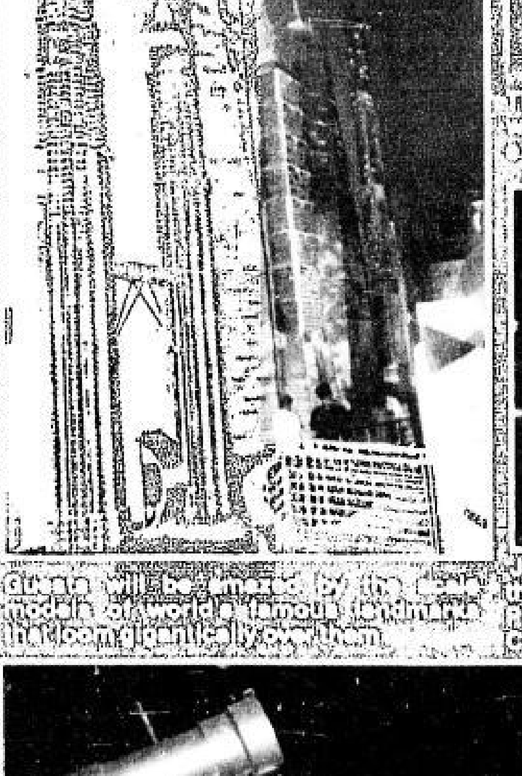
Experience tomorrow's technology today when the Science Discovery Center at the SM Mall of Asia opens on October 19.



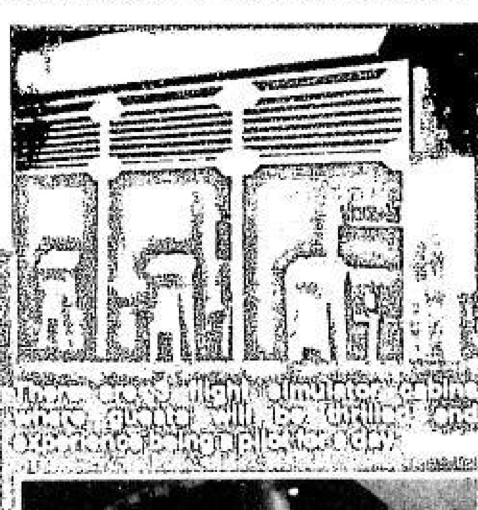
The wonder and beauty of marine life in the Philippines is highlighted at the Virtual Reef location.

Try this exciting Robot Text at the Robot Inc at the Science Discovery Center.

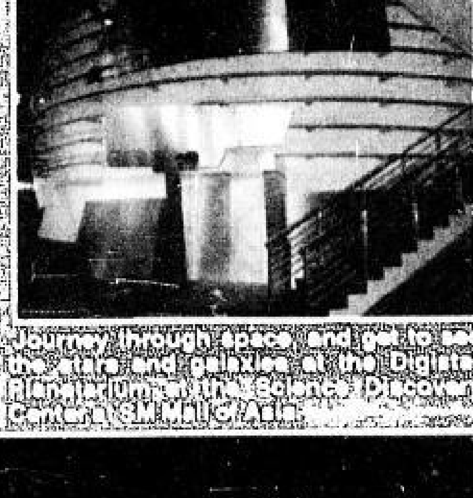
Test your nostrils by identifying smells ... You Stink



Guests will be amazed by the scale models of world's famous landmarks that loom gigantically over them.



... flight simulator cabin where guests will be thrilled and experience being a pilot for a day.

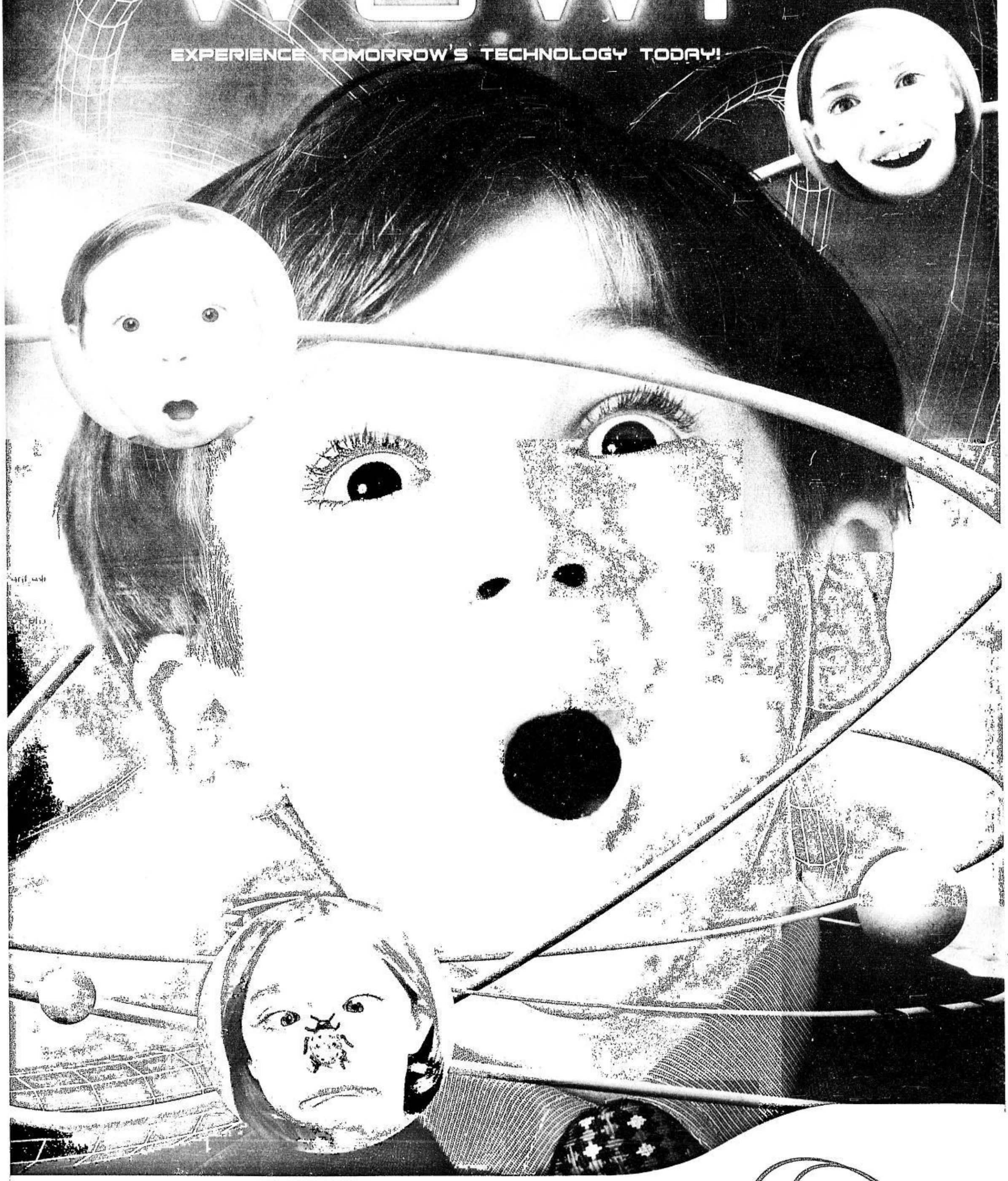


Journey through space and get to see the stars and galaxies at the Digistar Planetarium at the Science Discovery Center at SM Mall of Asia.

Tagi, the Science Discovery Center's own robot will greet guests in different languages.

# SCIENCE THAT MAKES YOU GO WOW!

EXPERIENCE TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY!

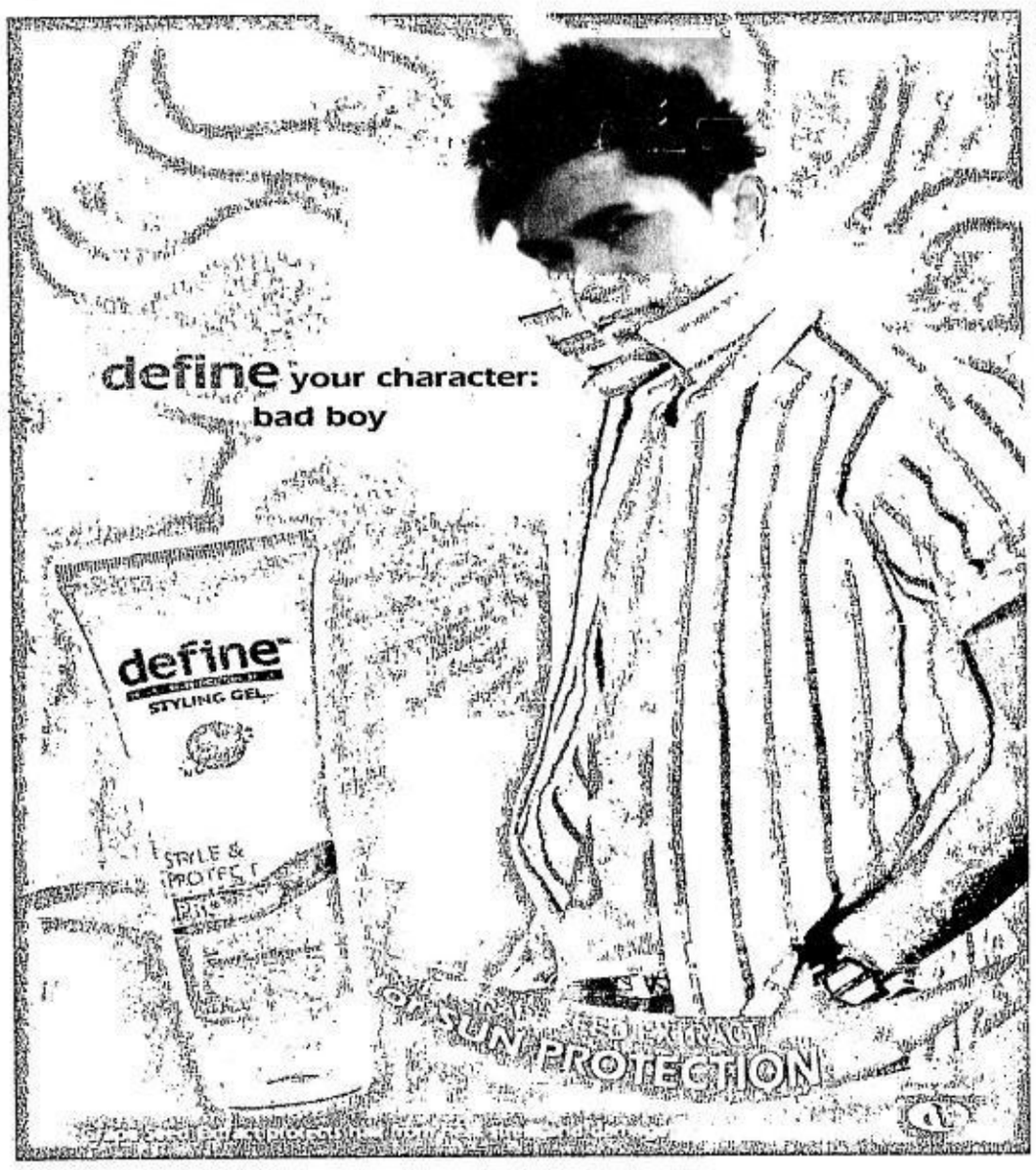


## OPENS ON
## OCTOBER 20, 2007

SM MALL OF ASIA

Southside Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City • Tel. No. 556-0661

SM Science Discovery Center




# DEFINE YOUR CHARACTER, DEFINE THE HERO IN YOU TOUR

*with Vhong Navarro*

Cosmetique Asia, the company behind Silka Papaya Soap and Juicy Cologne, continues the tradition of *uplifting the beauty within* with the launch of their new premium hairstyling solution – Define Pro Styling Gel.

One of the most awarded entrepreneurs and responsibility-conscious company, Cosmetique Asia ushered the hair care product at the same time kicked off the Manila segment of the *Define your character, Define the hero in you* tour at the Manila Boystown Complex in Parang, Marikina recently.

Together with the product endorser – reel and real super hero Vhong Navarro, the Cosmetique Asia family treated the wards of Boys' Home to an afternoon of fun, games and sharing the message to the youth that there is a hero in all of us.

"The positive appeal of Vhong to the kids and the youth in general, prompted us to pursue him. We saw the opportunity to connect our message of *Define your character, Define the hero in you* given the "heroes" that he has successfully portrayed for the big screen and television," Janssen Co, chief operations officer of Cosmetique Asia said.

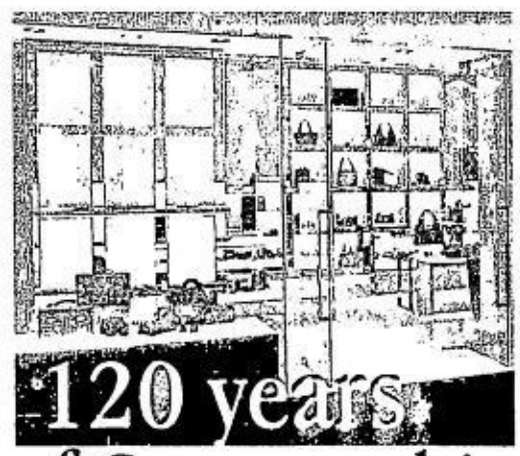
Indeed, Vhong Navarro was a revelation that day at Boystown as a spokesman and endorser. He took to heart the mission of uplifting and encouraging the youth by sharing with them memories of his teen years, ladder to success plus his hair styling tips.

Define Pro Styling Gel comes in two exciting variants: Define Pro Conditions (Blue) - Style your hair while keeping it healthy and conditioned! And, Define Pro Protects (Orange) - style your hair while keeping it protected from everyday hair stress. It is formulated with Vitamin E and Grape seed extract to keep hair protected from heat stress due to frequent blow drying and sunlight exposure.

**Dance a la Vhong at Boystown.**

NOW SHOWING

Starring
Anne Curtis in freeway
freeway.net.ph



## 120 years of German chic

PREMIER GERMAN BRAND BRAUN Büffel celebrates its 120th anniversary by unveiling in its Suntec City boutique the new look that will be adapted in its other branches across the region.

The uniformly contemporary look for all boutiques is in tune with the anniversary theme—tradition and vision, a marriage of both the old and new by combining the use of wood and stainless steel. The choice of wood retains a natural and rustic feel, while the contrasting use of stainless steel provides a sleek contemporary effect. With crisp, clean lines, embodied steel and light pinkish-beige toned wood, the boutique makes a stylish statement attuned to the urban lifestyle.

Each of the new boutiques will bear a genuine European cowhide sofa centerpiece with classic creamy fur and brown patches. This elegant piece of embellishment, set to become a unique and defining feature of all Braun Büffel boutiques in the Asia Pacific region, was jointly handpicked by Lianbee-Jeco director David Liao and Christiane Brunk, CEO of Braun Büffel Germany.

Decked in a neutral color scheme of beige and cream, the boutique shows off a refreshing, modern nude-minimalist look. This color palette also brings out the timeless and sophisticated character of Braun Büffel.

The newly furnished Braun Büffel boutique is located at #01-100/102 Tropics Atrium, Suntec City, Singapore.

Visit Braun Büffel boutiques at The Podium, The Block, SM Mall of Asia and Rustan's Department Stores. Visit www.braun-buffel-asiapac.com.

## Cult classics

THE CULTE FEMME HOLIDAY 2007 PRET-a-Porter Collection, designed by Hindy Weber-Tantoco, veers away from its trademark whimsical take on colors and prints by taking on a more subdued palette, owing to the designer's current penchant for subtle sophistication.

The expected black is nowhere in sight, with colors limited to pink champagne, sable gray, metallic silver, chartreuse, ivory, robin's egg blue in fabrics as varied as silk, satin, jersey, lamé and twill. Tantoco wants to emphasize the strength and sensuality of a woman in a calm and understated manner.

The collection adheres to a silhouette of strong shoulders, nipped waists and wide hemlines, signifying the return of volume on sleeves and legs. Key elements are shoulder gathers, puff sleeves, tiered ruffle sleeves, wide-leg trousers and belted waists.

The overriding inspiration for the collection would be an effortless blend of sultry 1970s disco diva and 1940s elegance.

The new collection will be unveiled in an intimate affair Oct. 25, 5:30 p.m., at 5/F, Rustan's Makati (at Heaven on the Fifth).

FASHION & LIFESTYLE

# 'Convenient' couture

Soft flight
Wool crepe shift dress with velvet devore shrug

ANTONIO "JAN" GARCIA describes his latest designs as a "collection of convenience." The former model and American-trained designer who came home last January to forge a career here in Manila says this is simply because his pieces are all based on a silhouette that subtly varies from one design to the next.

This is what he calls a dress group, otherwise known as a capsule collection.

The dress group is, apparently, completely different from a collection group, which may consist of one theme, at least 45 pieces and three sub-themes.

Garcia explains: "I found out that most designers in Manila work around dress groups, five to six pieces that are very similar in look and feel, so that buyers and editors can easily read and understand what their designs are all about."

His so-called "collection of convenience," however, is not as simple and easy as he makes it appear. Design-wise, his 1920s-inspired collection is strong and cohesive, with Garcia's keen eye for detail evident in the play of textures and silhouettes.

This artist undoubtedly poured his full creative energy into this collection.

"I used asymmetric hemlines. I played with texture and fabric. I had satin organza mixed with crepe, translated into bands, which I call the 'car-wash' skirt, and since I used a lot of details, I opted for black so it doesn't look too busy," says Garcia.

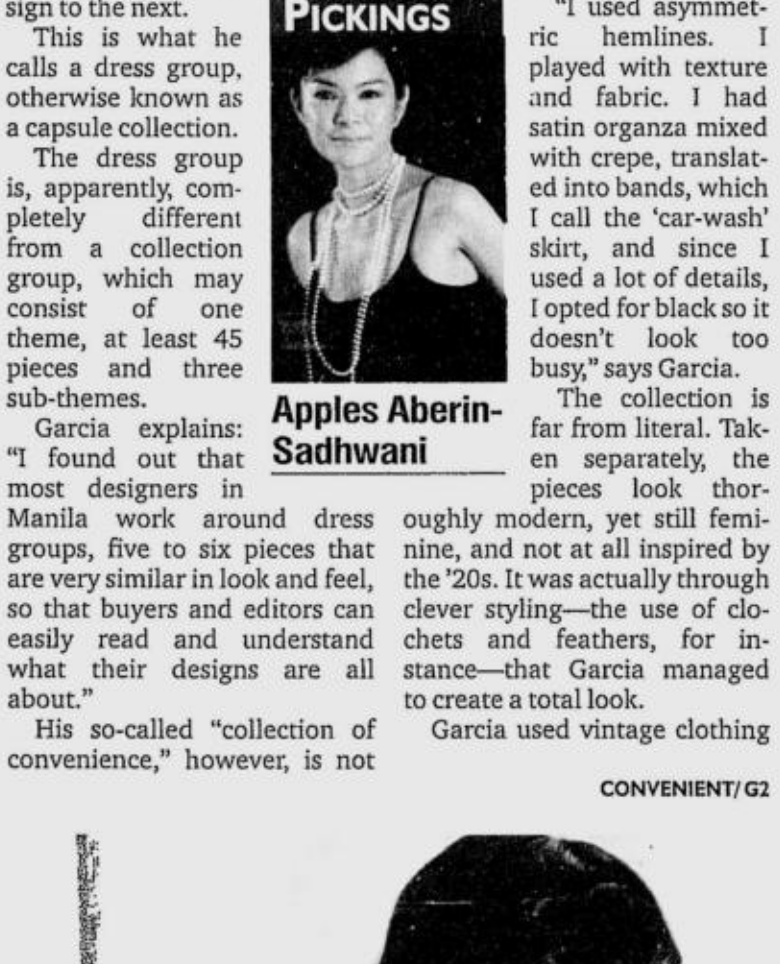
The collection is far from literal. Taken separately, the pieces look thoroughly modern, yet still feminine, and not at all inspired by the '20s. It was actually through clever styling—the use of clochets and feathers, for instance—that Garcia managed to create a total look.

Garcia used vintage clothing

CONVENIENT/ G2

**APPLES' PICKINGS**

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



In full bloom
Satin organza ruffled top

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**Antonio 'Jan' Garcia's 1920s-inspired collection is strong and cohesive, with his keen eye for detail evident in the play of textures and silhouettes**

**Beaded Lurex dress with ruff hem and cuffs**

# 'Convenient' couture

From page G1

as accents as well.

"I bought some '60s pieces that were actually made of dyed *jusi*, and that I made into a bib for one of the dresses. Simply put, I found the vintage pieces beautiful and so I decided to incorporate them into my design."

Ever-resourceful, he was also able to create texture that echoed the look of fur. "I used Maribou to create the look of fur, but was careful so that my pieces did not smack of winter. At first glance, the feathers actually looked like fox."

## Character-driven

Garcia is undoubtedly a made-to-measure designer. He enjoys and appreciates the fact that here in Manila he has the opportunity to deal with different personalities, as opposed to working around sizes and best-selling items in the American sportswear arena.

"I'm so happy now that I'm doing couture. I'm very blessed that my clients let me experiment and push my designing to the max. They're very open to new things," says Garcia.

Garcia also understands that his work is character-driven.

"So, if there are things that the client doesn't like, I am not offended. I'm very, very receptive to ideas. I'm very sensitive to the needs of the client, the local market. I can easily adapt. I don't mind adjusting my style. Ego doesn't play a part in what I'm doing," he adds.

His market is composed of what he calls "designer missy," the likes of Nan Kemper and other more mature women, who are growing older gracefully and with style. "But I do have younger clients, too, and I adjust to their needs accordingly," he says.

It seems that Garcia is in his element here in Manila. His career has been growing steadily since he arrived in January, and he is doing what he loves most.

"When I was in the States, I always had the feeling that I was limited to designing American sportswear. For a Filipino designer who's always been exposed to interesting design elements from our culture, this is a dream come true."

*Call 7297910 or 0919-3373131; e-mail antoniogarcia-manila@yahoo.com.*

*E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph*

**Shine**
**Satin organza one-shoulder dress with asymmetric ruffled hem**

**Channeling Dietrich**
**Wool knit top vintage *jusi* bib and crepe "car-wash" skirt**

**Photography Doc Marlon Pecjo**
**Styling Mikee Carrion and Bianca Valerio**
**Model Grace Tagle/ PMAP**
**Makeup Bianca Valerio**
**Hair Nante Alingasa for Kiehl's Stylist Series**

**Silent scream**
**Satin organza off-shoulder dress and cutout skirt with flat sequin underlay**

SUIT and shoes (below) made on the spot

THE SARTORIAL line

PAOLO Zegna and Anton Huang

# Luxe in Singapore

**Zegna, the top Italian brand known for its elegant tailoring, opens up a new branch exclusively to showcase its upscale lines**

**Text and photos by James P. Ong**
*Contributor*

SINGAPORE—MEN'S LABEL Ermenegildo Zegna has opened its first luxury boutique store in Southeast Asia at Singapore's fourth tallest building, the Capital Tower.

Paolo Zegna, chairman of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group, flew in for the grand launch, which was marked with a fashion show of its 1950s-inspired Fall/Winter collection. Among the guests was Anton Huang of Store Specialists Inc., which distributes Zegna in the Philippines.

The evening began with cocktails served at the 170-square meter store, housed on the ground floor of the 50-story building. The interiors evoked the charm of an old gentlemen's club. Designed by a Milanese firm, it uses dark panels and framed photos of scenes from the history of the 97-year-old company.

Unlike Zegna's two other stores here, the Capital Tower outlet carries only high-end lines and the newly launched undergarments collection. There is also a limited edition of handmade shoes with serial numbers.

It also offers the world-renowned Su Misura service, which offers clients custom-tailored wardrobe—from suits and leather coats to shoes, ties and even belts.

Orders take around five working weeks to complete, as they are all handmade at the Zegna factory in Trivero, near the Swiss Alps.

According to Huang, the same service is available in Manila, which has specially trained in-house tailors. A specialist from Italy also comes in seasonally.

Zegna's managing director for Southeast Asia, Alessandro Raniolo, says the Su Misura service is popular among local bankers in their mid-30s. Thus, the choice of Capital Tower was also strategic, as it is located right smack in Singapore's financial district.

At the fashion show that followed later, a tailor and a shoemaker from Italy were flown in to demonstrate, live, how Zegna's products are manufactured.

TIES on display

The Ermenegildo Zegna F/W collection drew its inspiration from the distinct tailored style of 1950s Milan, an era that elevated Italian tailoring and Zegna fabrics to the pinnacle of international menswear.

The "formal collection" redefined neo-classical Italian style, focusing on masculine elegance, proportion and lines. For the Zegna man this season, sophistication and understated style are paramount; individuality and masculinity are expressed through classic tailoring with impeccable cut and detailing.

## Milano fit

The season's key evolution is in the Milano fit—featuring an updated slimmer silhouette for both suits and overcoats, favoring natural shoulders with shirtsleeve construction.

Exquisitely fashioned details enriched its tailoring, with the addition of hand-stitched chalk stripe livery fabric under the lapels, as well as alongside the inside of the flap pocket.

The "Black Tie" evening wear line, on the other hand, was created with an atmosphere of refined simplicity and luxurious elegance. This season, inspiration was drawn from the ambience and style of Milan's La Scala opera theater.

In line with the La Scala refined culture of evening attire, sumptuous midnight black velvet tuxedo jackets with silk shawl collars are worn with merino roll necks, giving Old-World chic an updated edge. Or dressed up with high-shine patent leather Oxford's, slim-fitting trousers and hand-spun silk scarves.

STORE interiors

The new Elements outerwear collection was also launched during the show. Dubbed as the latest innovation in luxury outerwear, it is both stylish and functional and updates outdoor apparel for the most varied weather conditions.

Designed to meet all the stylistic and functional requirements of the wearer, the Elements line features ergonomic-cut shoulders, pockets with a double upper and side opening with "glove" deerskin details that ensure cuffs and zips are fully windproof.

Discreet internal pockets allow ample room for life's necessities, whether keys, mobile phones, spectacles or Blackberrys. A detachable collar in mélange shearling conceals a nylon hood.

Such innovations assure Ermenegildo Zegna Group's position as a world leader in luxury men's clothing. It now has textile factories, boutiques and stores in more than 30 countries around the world and yet is still a family business managed by the fourth generation of the family. In Manila, it is available at Rustan's Department Stores.

FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FA

# Eye candy

UKRAINIAN hottie Ilonah in Burberry

MR. BRAZIL 2007 Lucas Gil in DKNY

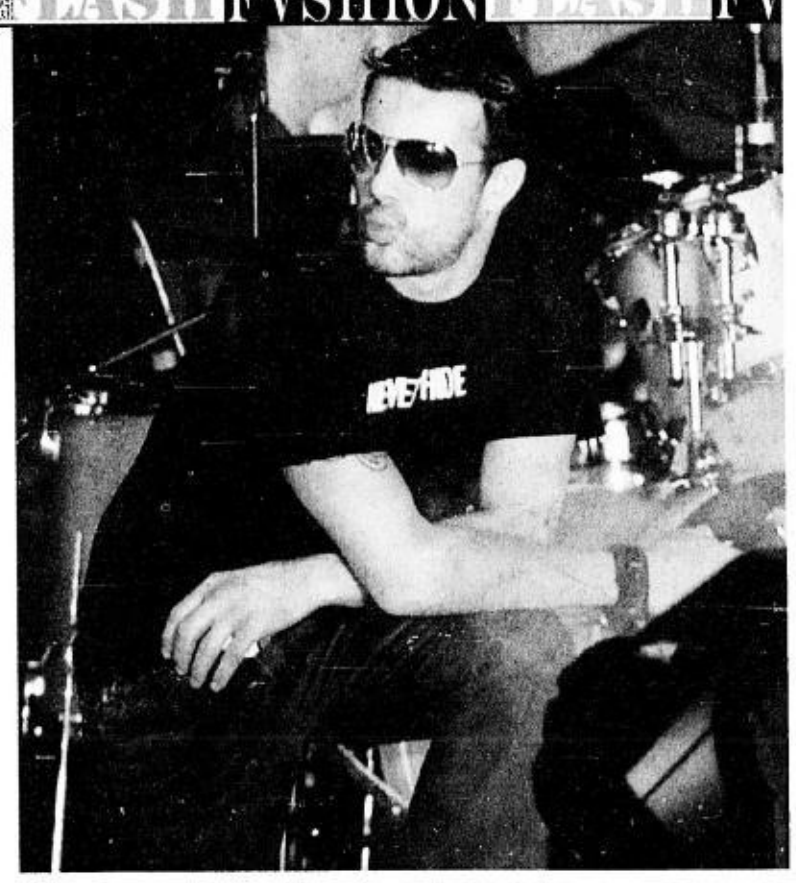
BRANDED LIFESTYLE INC. (BLI) recently brought together the biggest designer eyewear labels in one event. Set in a fab mansion in Forbes Park, the affair featured brands like Burberry, Calvin Klein, DKNY, Versace, YSL, Gucci and Ray-Ban.

Not to be missed in the event were BLI vice president and general manager Lal G. Gopwani, assistant general manager Devi P. Leaño, and the BLI marketing team headed by Frank Briones of Thinline Advertising with Kate D. Aguas and Sugar A. Pecjo.

The highlight of the evening was a fashion show divided into three segments, namely, minimalism, couture and rock star. The eyewear brands were worn by seven international models, plus model-turned-lead singer Matt Paki, who performed with his rock band.

The bubbly flowed all night, thanks to Moet & Chandon. As a special treat, each guest went home with Ray-Ban eyewear and Shu Uemura beauty products.

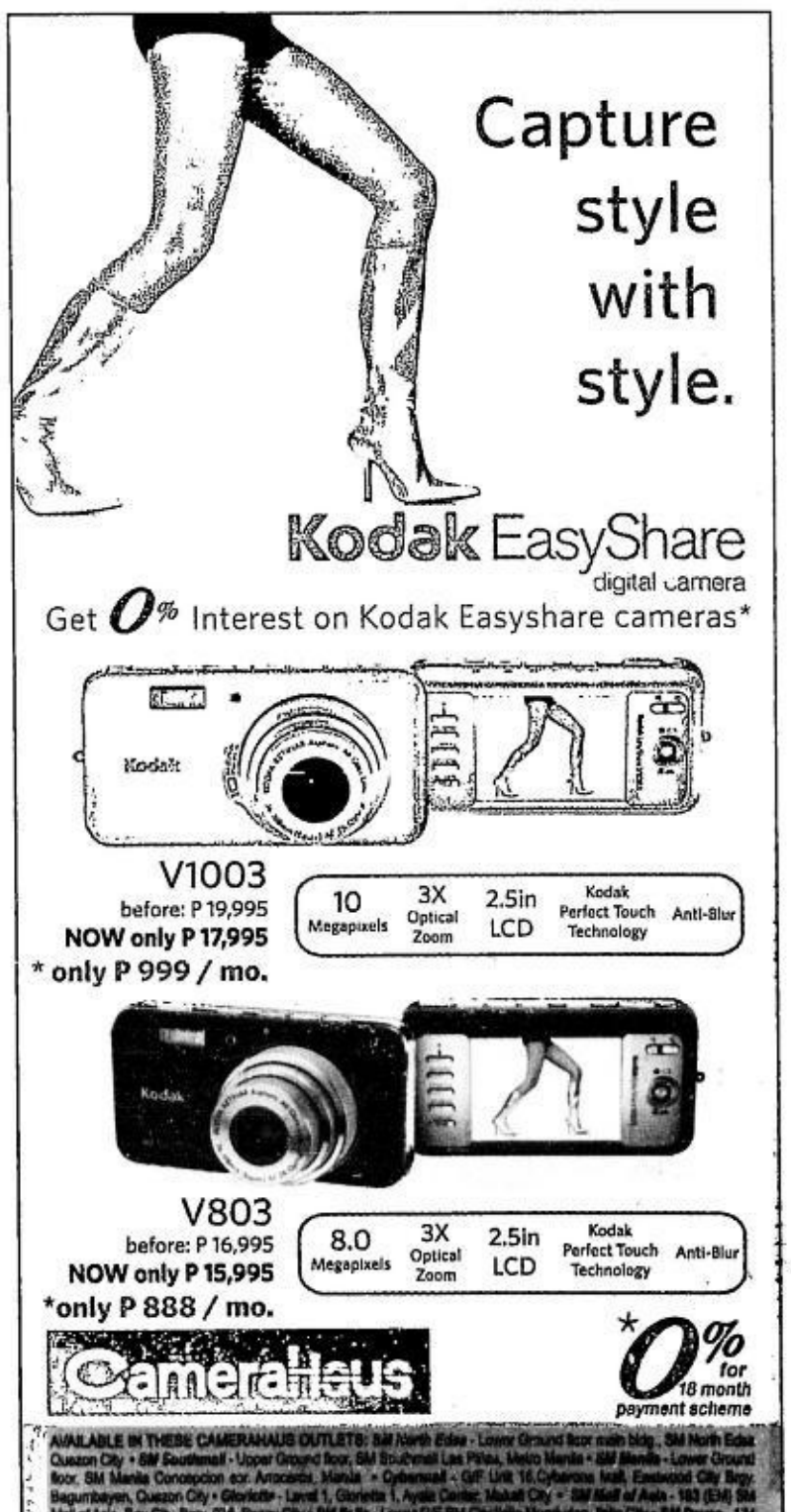
Other sponsors for the night included Promod, a French apparel brand that recently invaded the Manila fashion scene, Brian Tenorio for the shoes, and Eairth by Melissa Dizon for the male outfits worn during the show.



ROCK STAR from Down Under Matt Paki in Ray-Ban

BRAZILIAN model Diana in Gucci

BRAZILIAN Model Ana in YSL



# Northern steps

## 14 years and hundreds of stores all over the world later, premier shoe brand Aldo finally arrives in the Philippines

By Alex Y. Vergara

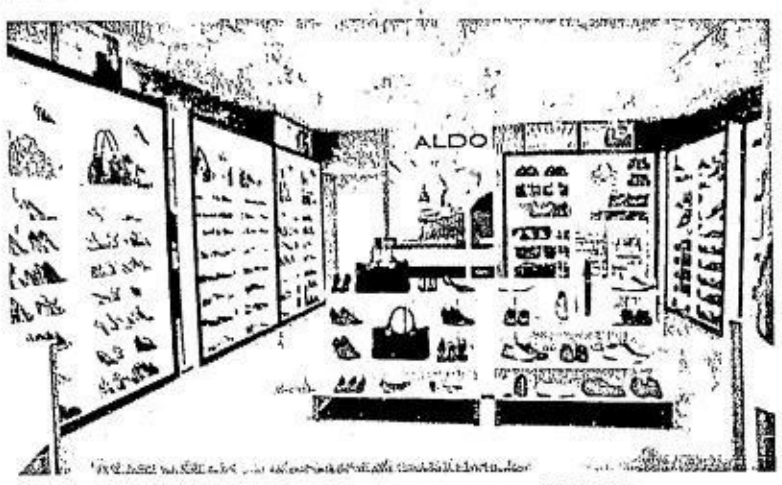
ALDO, ONE OF CANADA'S BIGGEST SHOE brands, has just stepped foot in the Philippines with the recent opening of its first stand-alone store at SM North Edsa's The Block. Then, in less than a week, the brand opened its second store at the Power Plant Mall in Makati.

This development comes on the heels of the Montreal-based company's continued global expansion, particularly in dynamic and increasingly affluent regions like Southeast Asia.

"The Philippines has always been part of our expansion plans," says Sebastien Gagnon, director of Aldo Group International. "The people here are generally young, adventurous and very fashionable."

Now that Aldo has found the ideal local partner, it expects to open four more stores in the country within the year.

Gagnon is referring to none other than the Bench group, the country's undisputed leader in mass-market retailing. The move is in keeping with Aldo's global strategy of working with the best local representatives in each of the country it does business in.




ALDO'S store at The Block is divided into men's and ladies' footwear.

"As much as Aldo sets its own directions, we always make it a point to listen and consider what our partners have to say," says Gagnon. "After all, these people know conditions on the ground much better than we do."

Apart from its 600 company-owned stores in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland, Aldo has 240 franchisees in over 30 countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Indonesia and, of course, the Philippines.

Indeed, Aldo's global presence is a far cry from what founder and CEO Aldo Bensadoun set out to do in 1972. Back then Aldo was a mere footwear concessionaire within a chain of popular boutiques in Montreal.

Bensadoun then went on to establish stores in other key Canadian cities such as Ottawa, Quebec City and Winnipeg. Over the course of 13 years, beginning in 1980, the number of Aldo's freestanding stores in Canada grew from four to 95.

There was no looking back for the company after it decided to expand southward in 1993 with its first US store in Boston. Fourteen years and hundreds of stores all over the world later, Aldo finally arrives in the Philippines.

### Strong partner

"We've met with a number of potential partners in the Philippines, and Bench, by far, emerged as the strongest," Gagnon affirms. "Bench's commitment to retail closely mirrors our core values of integrity, respect and love for our customers."

That love further translates into a "passion" to give something back to the community. One of Aldo's pet projects, in cooperation with the Youth AIDS foundation, is to raise money worldwide to help in the fight against AIDS.

"We have so far been able to raise $3 million for the foundation by selling exclusively designed dog tags," says Gagnon.

Although Aldo has teamed up with Bench, the former isn't a mass-market brand. Nor is it a high-end name only an exclusive group of people can afford.

"Our shoes appeal to young and stylish people who are going places," he says. "It doesn't matter what market he or she belongs to, the typical Aldo customer isn't afraid to try new things, especially when it comes to fashion."

Like most global brands, Aldo has a team of designers who travel all over the globe to search for ideas and distill trends. It's able to keep its prices affordable by dealing with reputable manufacturers in Brazil, Italy, Spain, Romania and, yes, China.

"Majority of our shoes are exclusively designed and manufactured for Aldo," Gagnon assures. "Over the years, our production has slowly moved to Asia. Asian suppliers are getting better equipped in providing us with the right products."

But unlike a good number of global brands, Aldo caters to both genders. Its clean, well-lit store in SM, for instance, is divided into two sections: one for women's footwear and one for men's.

"In general, women are more impulsive and adventurous shoppers. In contrast, it takes men more time to trust new brands," says Gagnon.

"That's why we encourage the ladies to shop with their husbands and boyfriends," he adds with a wink, "since these women often end up choosing items for their men as well."

### Complementary items

Apart from women's handbags, the well-stocked store also carries complementary items such as eyewear, belts and fancy accessories for him and her. The shoes, be it men's or ladies', are further divided into three categories: dress, city and sport.

As their names imply, Aldo's dress shoes are ideal for formal and office wear, while its city shoes are perfect for those after-six affairs, particularly weekend parties that require trendier outfits.

The women's city section is teeming with a wicked selection of platforms in various colors, styles and materials. The men's side offers a wide selection of square-toed and semi-pointed moccasins and lace-ups in the most unusual cuts and materials.

Sports shoes range from lace-up and slip-on loafers for him, and ballerina flats for her. Aldo also offers its Filipina customers a limited line of boots from its fall-winter collection.

Since they're now more exposed to global trends, Filipinos also deserve nothing but the best and the latest from a global brand like Aldo.

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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INSIDE

**Stars' strengths and limitations** Viewfinder /H2

**Laurice Guillen at home** Homebody /I3

FROM MERMAID ROLE TO ARTIST PLAY

# Bernardo Bernardo's US success story

LOS ANGELES—IN HIS OWN WORDS, **Bernardo Bernardo** felt like a *bangus* fingerling in a humongous ocean when he immigrated to the United States.

After many years as a noted actor-comedian in the Philippines, Bernardo had to virtually start all over again to make it in the "United Snakes of America." If that meant playing a *sirena* (mermaid) atop a bed of cracked ice to tout an Asian supermarket chain, so be it. He did it, with a fish as a mike prop to boot.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

*Ruben V. Nepales*

Now, BB (he claims to have the same sultry pout of the actress who has the same initials, **Brigitte Bardot**) is associated with an acclaimed play, "The Romance of Magno Rubio." When Lonnie Carter's stage adaptation of Carlos Bulosan's short story premieres in LA on Oct. 25, it will be Bernardo's third time to portray Prudencio, one of the five Filipino migrant workers in the play set in the Central Valley of California in the 1930s.

Bernardo and his cast mates—**Paolo Montalban, Ramon de Ocampo, Jojo Gonzalez** and **Arthur Acuña**—will have the honor of presenting the play as one of two offerings selected to open the newly renovated Los Angeles Theatre Center in downtown LA. He admitted to being "shameless" in his zeal to be cast in future productions after seeing the play for the first time at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, California. The original Ma-Yi Theatre staging in New York had won eight Obie Awards in 2003.

Bernardo's efforts paid off. Director **Loy Arcenas** tapped him in the well-received productions in Chicago (Midwest premiere) and New York (in a restaging this year). The LA production (information available at www.thenewlatc.com) runs until Oct. 28.

BB is comfortable in legit theater as well as on TV sitcoms. Many Filipinos remember him as Steve Carpio in Dolphy's "Home Along Da Riles," which ran for 10 years. The actor, who studied at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art on a British Council grant, lived in the States before when he pursued an M.A. in Dramatic Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The UST alumnus has moved from the LA area to Northern California to teach Intermediate Tagalog ("actually, survival Tagalog," he wrote) at the University of San Francisco, and musical theater at the Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City.

Cited by the US-based Filipinas magazine in 2005 as one of the top 10 Filipino achievers, the performer displays his natural wit and humor in our Q&A with him via e-mail. In our years of conducting interviews, this was easily one of the most entertaining yet illuminating sessions.

**As a relatively new immigrant to the US, how does the play's metaphor of "America the Bountiful as a hard-hearted bitch" (quote by Variety's Marylin Stasio in her favorable review of the play) resonate with you?**

Well, it's year 2007 and nothing much has changed. On board the S.S. United Snakes of America, even the modern *manongs* are finding out that, in many ways, whether you rock the boat or not, our Little Brown Brothers tend to get dunked. Lady Liberty is still long on promises and short on delivery.

Witness the Equity Bill for Filipino Veterans of WWII painstakingly inching its way in Washington through the last 60 years while the old Pinoy soldiers bravely refuse to fade away, even as they die one by one, cast as the neglected and forgotten "White Man's Burden."

Or, more recently, there's Army Maj. Gen. **Antonio Taguba** who, after a thorough and truthful 2004 report about prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, found himself chastised and contradicted by the Pentagon and the Bush administration officials for being so Un-

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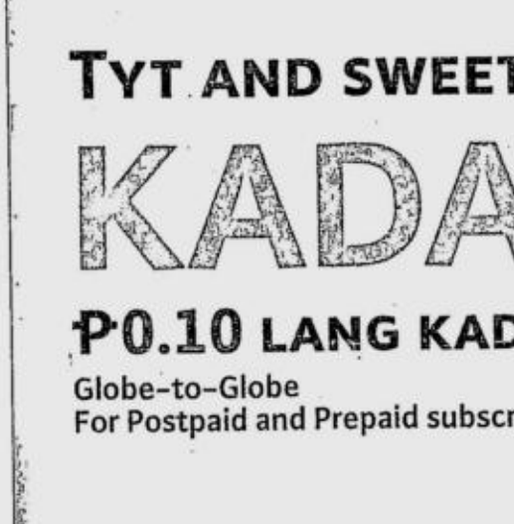

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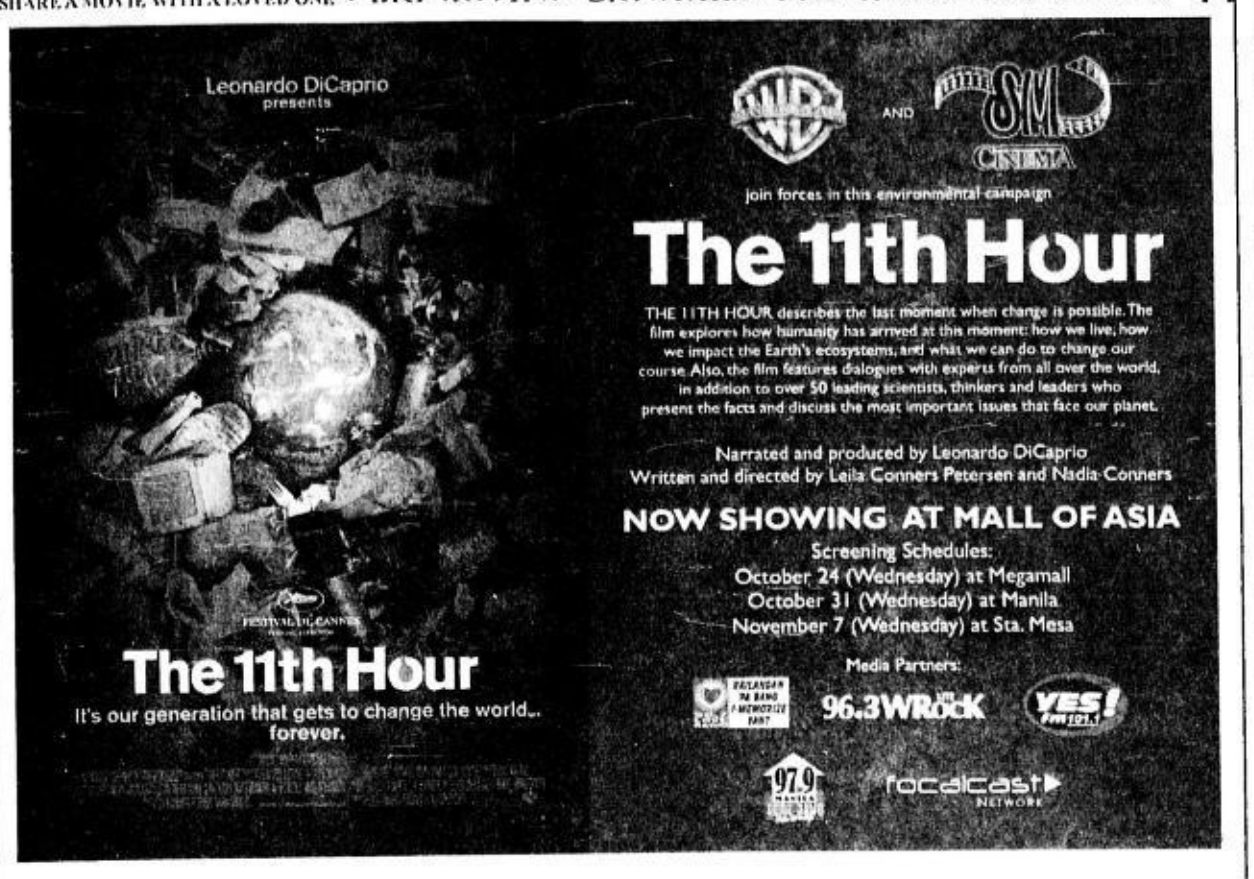


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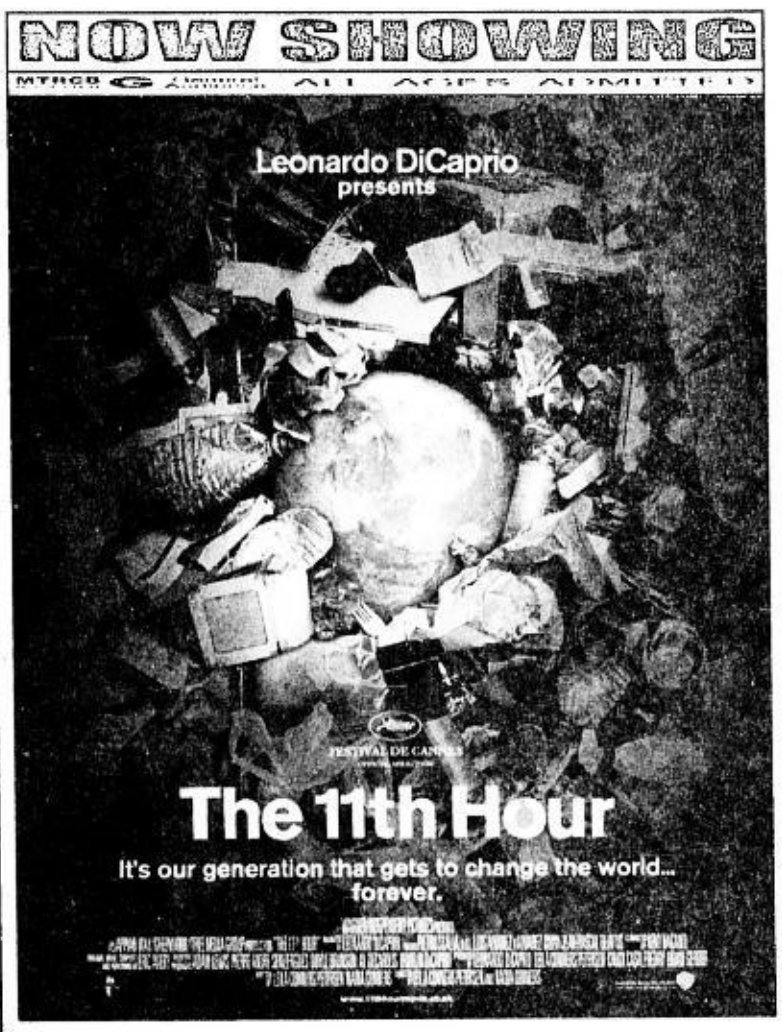

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1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 BRATZ
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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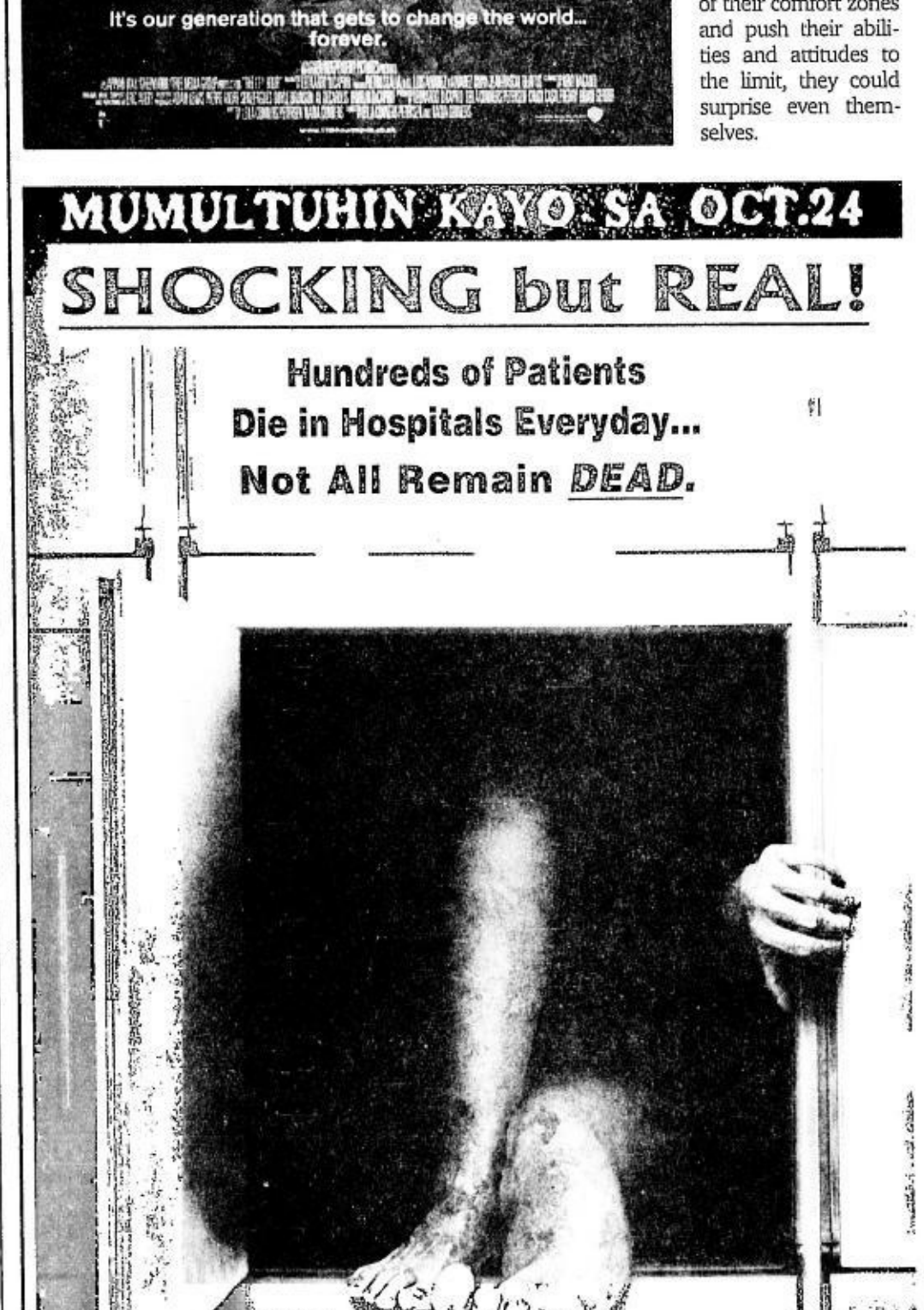






# Stars' strengths and limitations

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

PERFORMERS BECOME STARS because they have something uniquely appealing or admirable to offer the viewing and listening public. But, being human, they also have limitations or flaws that they may try to hide, or may not even be aware of.

In either case, these disguised or unrealized flaws have the nasty habit of eventually coming to the fore—and dimming popular celebrities' otherwise glittering stardom.

To make sure their star remains bright, celebrities should face up to their limitations, and try to do something about them.

For example, **Robin Padilla** is one of only a few action stars who have remained popular, proof positive of the longevity of his mass and "bad boy" appeal. On the other hand, his Achilles' heel has always been his overly enthusiastic style of acting.

## Alternative projects

To his credit, however, Robin appears to have become aware of this basic flaw, and his need to do something about it. So, he's stepped out of type and dared to act in alternative projects like "La Visa Loca," where he was astutely guided to come up with a focused and felt performance that went a long way in counteracting his "signature" image as a ham actor.

Even more astutely, **Mark Meily's** movie didn't really eliminate Robin's hammy side, it cleverly *refocused* it to suit the over-the-top character he was made to play.

**Sharon Cuneta**? Her strengths include her accessibility to mass viewers, her textured singing voice, her genuine desire to make people happy, and her efforts to learn solid lessons from her many years in entertainment.

On point of contrast, her flaws are her tendency to gain weight, to play her "signature" roles too often, and to go for the easy, surface effect rather than dig deep into her character's essential wants and needs.

Like Robin, Sharon has been judicious enough to work hard to improve her performances by "going alternative" and opting to play *against* her image in "small" but more significant movies like "Crying Ladies."

She's also "paying it forward" by turning producer of meaningful films that benefit greatly from her involvement in them.

For his part, **Aga Muhlach** is the "reigning" Prince of Drama on the local film scene, a testament to his strengths: sensitive good looks, versatility, charisma, acting talent and empathetic vulnerability.

Ironically, Aga's flaw is an offshoot of his success: He's become so popular and bankable that his producers are leery about taking risks, so his recent starrers have tended to be slick romantic melodramas that make his portrayals predictable.

This is a pity, since Aga's early performances showed that he has deep acting resources—which he can't mine to great effect due to the "safe" projects he's been starring in.

What can Aga do about this creative plateau in his career? Is he willing to "dare" as much as Robin and Sharon to energize his artistic output and reputation?

Other stars who need to revitalize their creative energies on the big screen include **Christopher de Leon, Jolina Magdangal, Piolo Pascual, Judy Ann Santos, Kris Aquino** and **Bong Revilla.** If they motivate themselves to get out of their comfort zones and push their abilities and attitudes to the limit, they could surprise even themselves.

## To have and to hold

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

## BABY BLUES

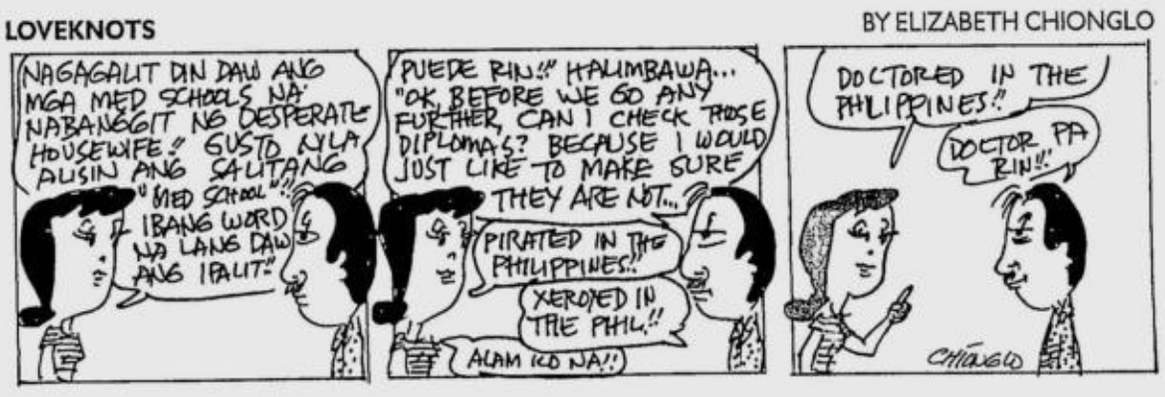
BY JERRY SCOTT

## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

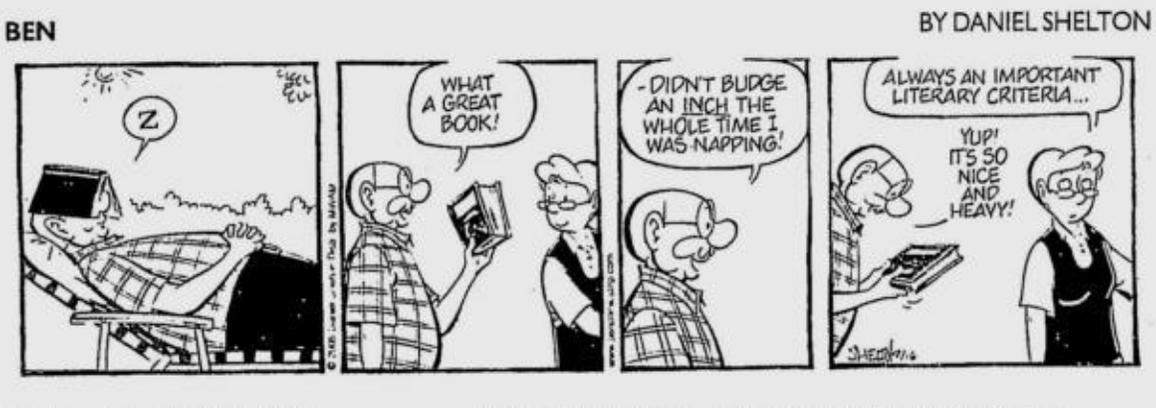



## KIKO MACHINE

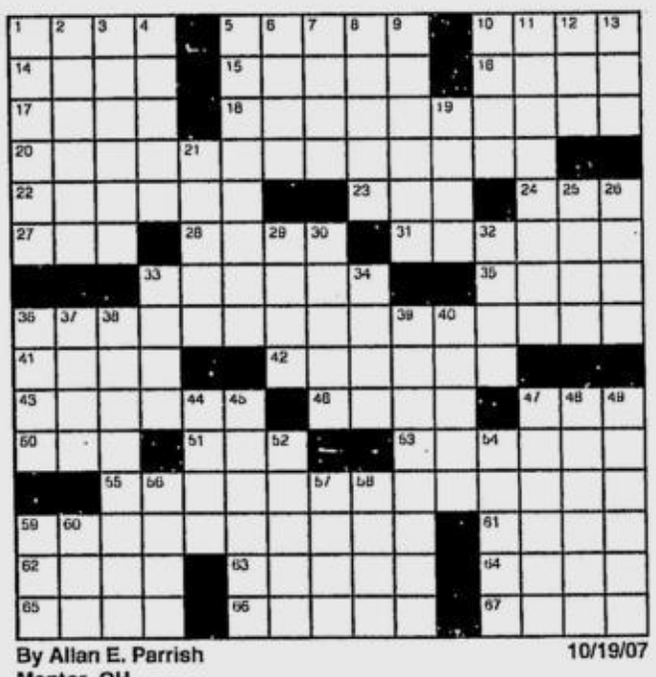
BY MANIX ABRERA

## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON




## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

10/19/07

**ACROSS**
1 Scottish headland
5 Slyly wed
10 Memorable times
14 1952 Olympics host
15 Fable lesson
16 Star in Lyra
17 Three-card monte, e.g.
18 Noodles at the bar
20 Miley Cyrus series
22 Kia model
23 Gen. Pershing's outfit
24 Impost
27 Montgomery of Jazz
28 Gillette shaver
31 Vituperate
33 Protect
35 Meter insert
36 Eagles classic
41 "Das Kapital" writer
42 Full of holes
43 Sanctioned
46 Hamilton bills
47 Keyboard key
50 Program paid for by FICA
51 Notes of scales
53 Mexican-American music
55 John Wayne movie
59 Unrestricted hunting period
61 Torme and Tillis
62 Job to do
63 Brave southpaw
64 Writer Harte
65 Speech imperfection
66 Short-and-sweet
67 Fast fliers' letters

**DOWN**
1 Empty seat
2 Get away
3 Some pass patterns
4 Sleep: pref.
5 Strongly worded
6 Fertile soil
7 Roughly
8 Port city on the Ganges
9 Click beetle
10 Bayh or Hunter
11 Connection
12 __ Khan IV
13 Morose
19 Free from danger
21 "__ and the Night Visitors"
25 Et __ (and others)
26 Lucy Lawless role
29 Harvest
30 Divvy up
32 TiVo predecessors
33 Erotic
34 Ominous
36 Wellness grps.
37 Acorn yielders
38 Workout leaders
39 Lunt's partner
40 Water bird: var.
44 Does wrong
45 Really loathe
47 Stun guns
48 Lower-limb jewelry
49 Crows
52 Outline
54 Doorway sides
56 Working in a mess?
57 Bygone Russian ruler
58 Expressions of delight
59 Night flyer
60 Luau serving

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | E | ■ | T | A | B | S | ■ | A | D | M | I | R | E |
| T | O | N | ■ | O | M | E | N | ■ | L | A | U | R | E | L |
| R | O | D | ■ | M | A | T | A | ■ | E | M | M | E | T | S |
| I | D | R | A | T | H | E | R | B | E | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | O | U | G | H | ■ | L | E | I | ■ | G | R | E | A | T |
| T | O | N | E | U | P | ■ | ■ | T | I | E | C | L | I | P |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | M | E | A | R | E | D | ■ | S | A | N | K |
| E | S | P | ■ | B | A | D | P | O | E | T | ■ | N | U | S |
| R | O | O | K | ■ | C | O | I | N | E | R | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | P | L | I | C | E | R | ■ | ■ | S | E | T | T | E | R |
| T | H | A | N | A | ■ | E | O | N | ■ | N | E | R | V | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | B | A | D | G | O | O | D | P | O | E | T |
| V | A | N | D | A | L | ■ | E | T | U | I | ■ | U | N | O |
| I | G | U | A | N | A | ■ | E | R | S | E | ■ | P | E | R |
| C | O | N | M | A | N | ■ | S | E | E | R | ■ | E | D | T |

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10/19/07

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're independent, daring and outspoken. You have strong opinions! You're also naturally competitive. Some of you are determined to reveal hidden truths and expose injustice. (Although personally you are very private.) You're a good friend and a pillar of support for your family. The year ahead focuses on partnerships and close friendships.

**Birthdate of:** Ty Pennington, TV host; John Lithgow, actor; Evander Holyfield, boxer.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** This afternoon and evening are excellent times for making long-range plans about shared property, insurance matters, debt, taxes and mortgages. You have a practical frame of mind today

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Discussions with someone older, wiser or more experienced than you can prove to be profitable today. Listen to what is offered, and think about it for a while.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** This is a good day to do routine, boring work. You'll find it relatively easy to do. You're in the frame of mind to stick to something until it's finished.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Serious discussions about caring for children or educating them could take place today; it's a good day for this. You're in the mood to make future plans that are solid and practical.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Tackle home repairs today. You want to do a good job because you're in a practical frame of mind; furthermore, you want long-term results.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Discussions with someone older could benefit you today. You are less concerned with the challenges of today as opposed to the challenges of tomorrow. You want to secure something for your future.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** If shopping today, you'll buy long-lasting, practical items. You frequently like beautiful, decorative things, but today, you're in a serious, practical frame of mind.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** It's easy for you to take a long-range view of things today. This is a good day to think about your goals. Where do you want to be 10 years from now? Five years from now? Six months?

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Researching anything will pay off today. Your approach to anything will be persevering and diligent. Roll up your sleeves and dig in.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Older friends, perhaps far away, might have practical advice for you today. It doesn't hurt to listen. After all, you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Bosses and authority figures are ready for serious discussions today. People are taking a long-range view of everything. If you jump on board, they'll be impressed.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** This is a good day to make solid plans related to education, training, travel, publishing, the media and the law. You have a good idea about what you want to achieve in the future.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis SudoKu** By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | | 2 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 8 | | 1 | | 3 | | 2 | |
| | | 9 | | 8 | | 3 | | |
| | | | 3 | 9 | 2 | | | |
| | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | |
| | 6 | | 8 | | 9 | | 3 | |
| | | 1 | | | | 5 | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/19

Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/18

# From mermaid role...

From page H1

BERNARDO Bernardo, right, with (from left) Jojo Gonzalez, Ramon de Ocampo, Paolo Montalban and Arthur Acuna in "The Romance of Magno Rubio" MATT ZUGALE

American. Honest.

Immigrants can be thankful that we have the freedom to bitch because, apparently, it will take some time before The Hard-Hearted Bitch ever considers a transplant.

**How tough was it during your first few years in the US?**

"Tough" would be a lame, tame word to describe my first few years as an immigrant. I was an "unknown" all over again. A tiny *bangus* fingerling in a huge pond—no, humongous ocean—that is America! So, I had to structure the timeline of my reinvention and strategize my networking; auditions, showcases, public service, publicity and promotions... the works!

But I've always had great bounce-ability. I'm your prototypical—pardon the expression—cock-eyed optimist. I'm a clown. I never take myself seriously. Life's too short for that. As it is, I am not surprised anymore that when you "go with the flow," you may discover that other people's detritus tend to flow along with you. As Forrest Gump memorably enunciated, "Shit happens."

So, I was blessed as a performing artist to work with National Artists—the likes of **Nick Joaquin, Ishmael Bernal, Lamberto Avellana** and **Rolando Tinio**, in critically acclaimed productions.

Then one day, I found myself on a bed of cracked ice, dressed like a mermaid and using a codfish as a microphone—for an Asian supermarket TV commercial. Well, I was acting. And getting paid for it.

A tad ironic, yes. So, I take a deep breath and smile. Then move on. Nothing's permanent.

**How do you feel that Carlos Bulosan's expose of the plight of migrant workers is still relevant today, especially in certain streets of LA? And that there are Magno Rubios of various ethnicities still out in the farms, factories and streets of America?**

It's funny how things change and yet essentially remain the same.

In the late '60s, I was studying at UCSB—even then being my irreverent, irrepressible (and sometimes irrelevant) self; haphazardly coping with pursuing a Master's Degree while macro-managing raging hormones on the verge of over-drive, fueled by the intoxicating freedom of being away from family and peers; and, awkwardly attempting to control touchy-feely Catholic hands firmly gripping the tail-end of the Flower People Movement.

I went through a psychedelic Baptism of Fire that are universes removed from our current concept of culture shock. I was high on Life, Love and the "Hippie-ng Kulelat" Idealism of the late '60s. And, yes, I was just a tad immature (read: too stupid) to see what was really going on around me.

History was literally knocking down our Isla Vista doors with the growing Civil Rights Movement (one of the leaders was renowned black actress **Beah Richards**, who was my acting teacher at Inner City!); punctuated by the student rallies, riots and non-violent marches and senseless assassinations of **Robert Kennedy** and **Martin Luther King**; and heightened by the fear, agony and protests wrought by the unpopular Vietnam War.

More disturbing to me now, as a Filipino: my inability to even be aware at the time that many of the "stoop-laborers" (farmers) I passed daily on California's freeways were fellow Filipinos. That, had I bothered to look beyond the bountiful harvests while whizzing past those idyllic scenes, I would have seen the camouflaged indignities and exploitation of so many Pinoy brothers working on those vast fields. I was too ignorant to read between the lines of the much-publicized Farmers' Union's five year boycott-strike in California, to look behind the soon-to-be iconic Cesar Chavez and proudly note that among the leaders, there were two Filipino giants: **Philip Vera Cruz** and **Larry Itliong**.

**Magno Rubio** lives even now. The beat and the lyrics may sound different. But it's the same song. They're rapping the second verse. How can the wars, the political and social problems, and the plight of migrant workers change... and yet remain the same? Evolution is such an achingly slow process.

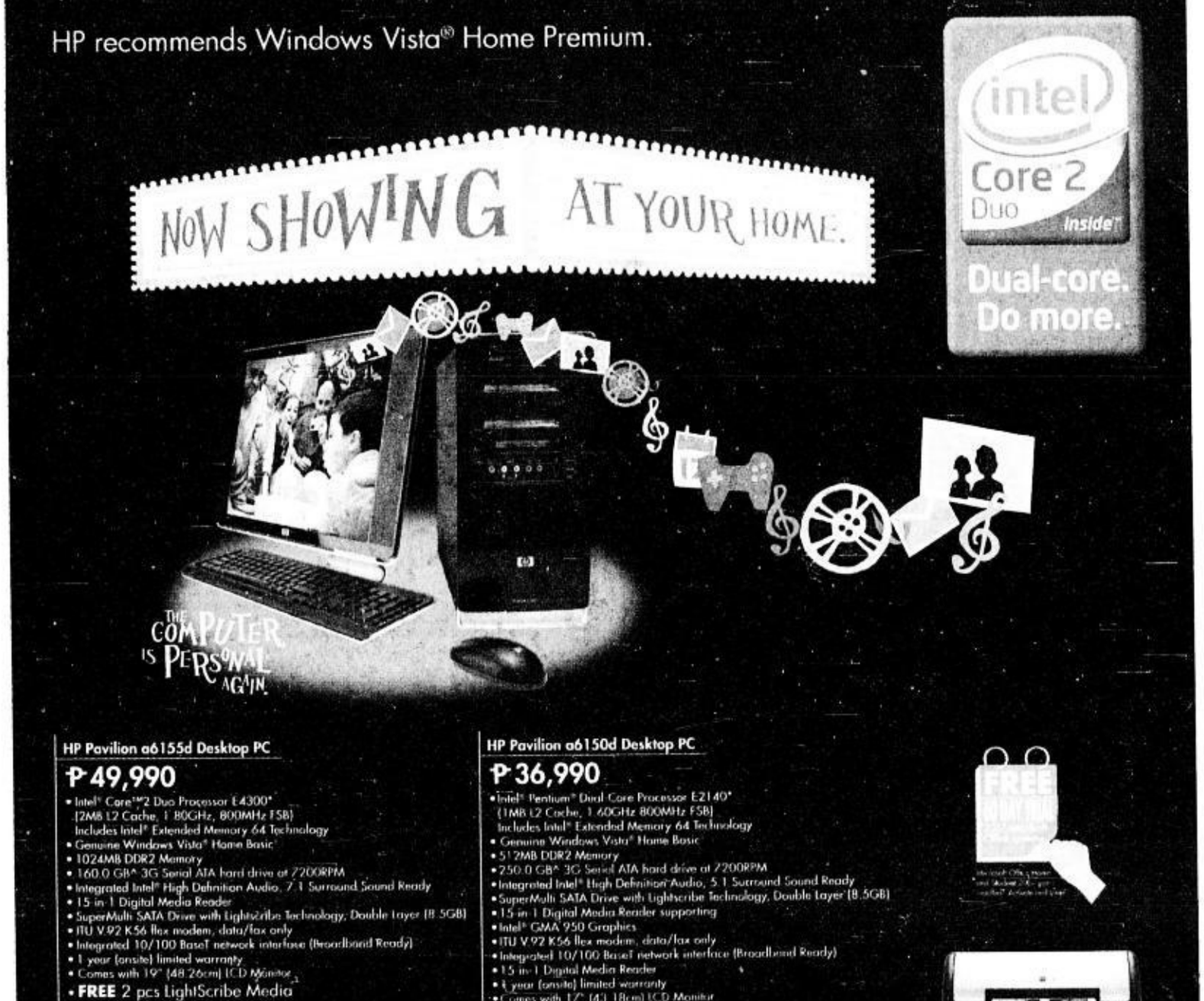
**Have you heard about the joke—or it was probably true—that a Mexican who came to the US and worked with Filipinos in the farms of Central California learned to speak Ilokano instead of English?**

I haven't heard that one before. But nothing about Ilokanos surprise me anymore. They persevere, thrive and triumph. Last I heard, one Filipino folk dance group brought legendary Ilokano thriftiness to a staggering height: they wanted to dance *Tinikling* with only one *kawayan* (bamboo pole)!

All hail "Ilokoslovakia!"

**(To be continued tomorrow)**

*E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.*

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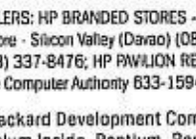

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# LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

*Editor* **Emmie G. Velarde**

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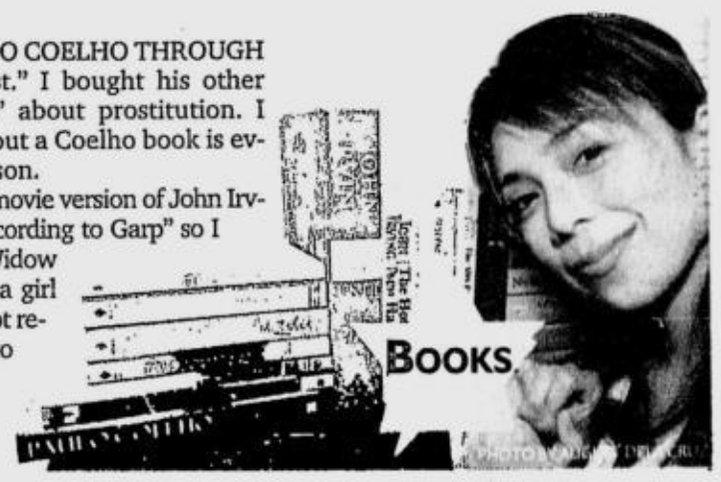
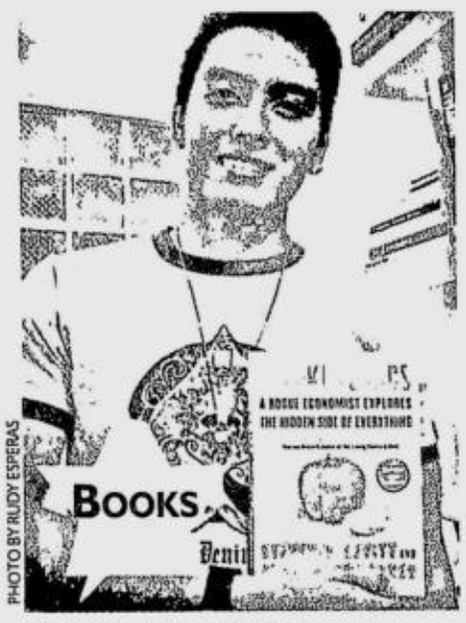
## NINA




I FIRST HEARD OF PAOLO COELHO THROUGH his book "The Alchemist." I bought his other book, "Eleven Minutes," about prostitution. I loved it. What's good about a Coelho book is every chapter imparts a lesson.

I enjoyed watching the movie version of John Irving's novel "The World According to Garp" so I bought his other novel, "Widow for One Year." It is about a girl searching for love. She's not really a widow. She was set to get married but the wedding didn't push through.

*Marinel R. Cruz*




## ALFRED VARGAS

A FRIEND NOW BASED IN WASHINGton D.C. introduced me to "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Subtitled "A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything," the book suggests that economic principles can be seen in big and small things. It explains human behavior in terms of economics. Do you know that there's an "economic" explanation for falling in love? It's not about macro- or microeconomics. But it's an eye-opener, very informative and entertaining. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

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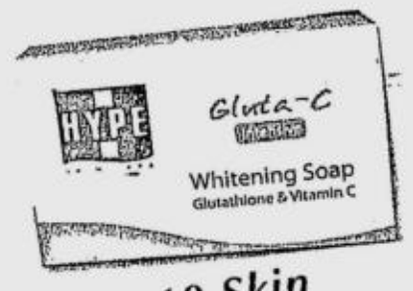


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CHEER FACTOR

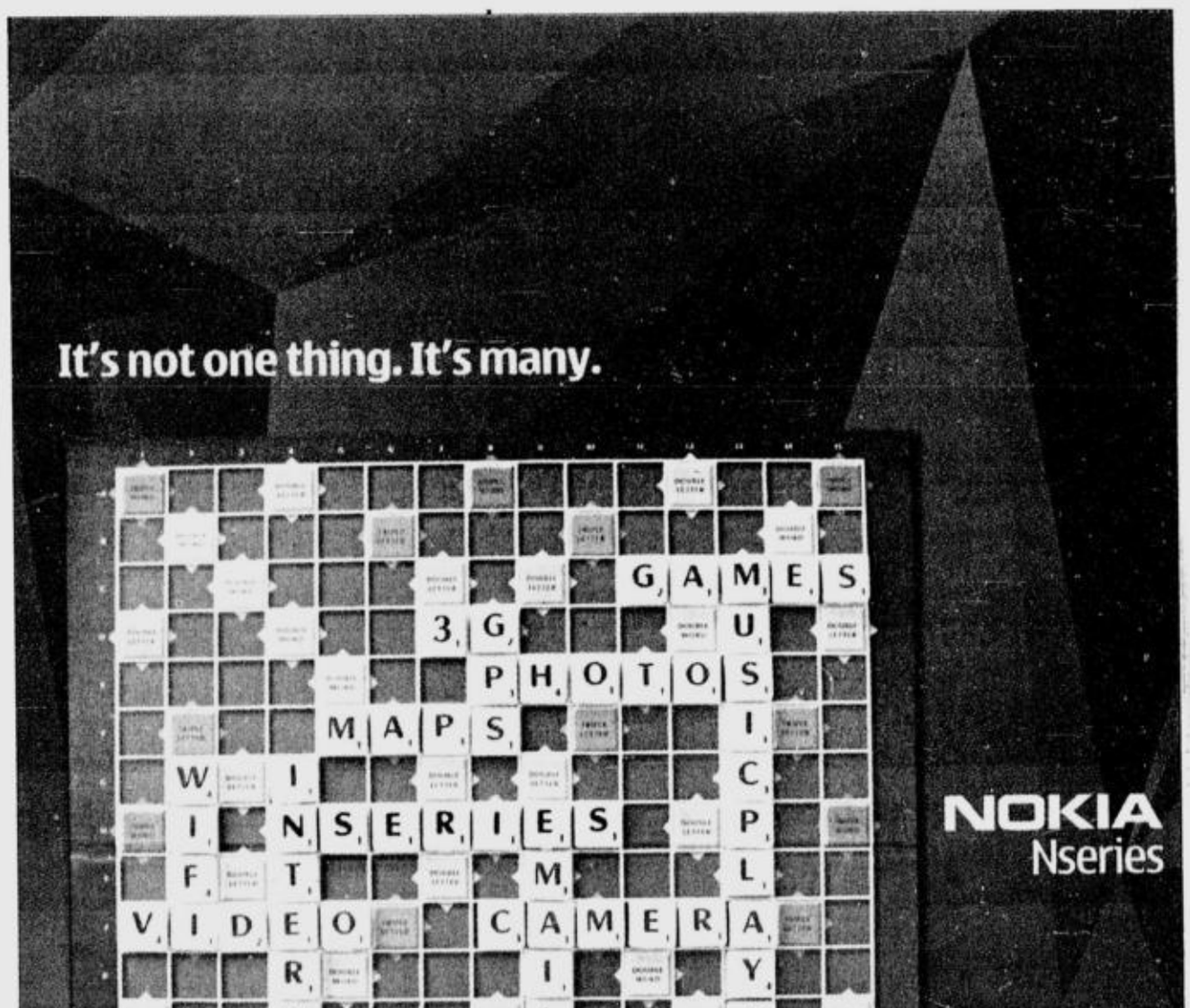
Paris Hilton, grownup

NEW YORK—PARIS Hilton has vowed to change her party-girl image after serving a 23-day jail sentence in June for violating probation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case.

"Before, my life was about having fun, going to parties—a fantasy," the socialite, 26, tells Newsweek magazine in its Oct. 22 issue, now on newsstands. "But ... I felt empty inside."

Hilton says she is now committed to using her celebrity status for the greater good. Next month, she plans to fly to Rwanda to bring attention to the African country.

Hilton will visit schools and healthcare clinics as part of a five-day charity mission. The trip will be filmed. *AP*






POWER PLANT CINEMA

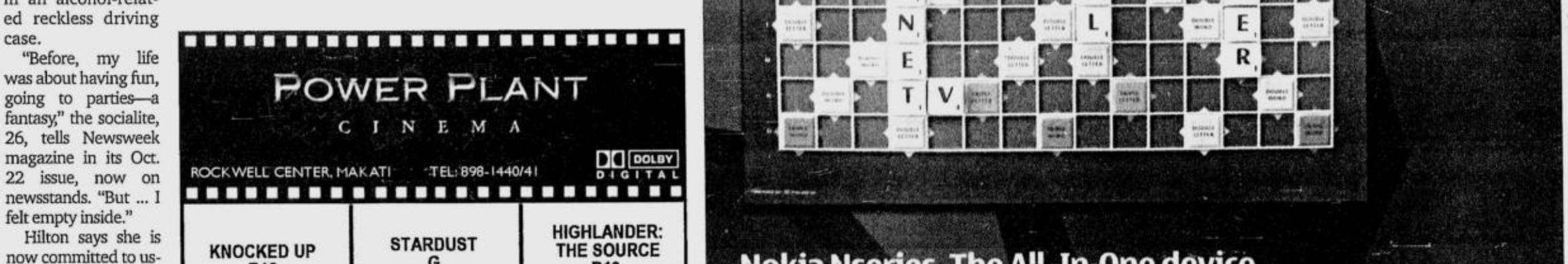
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

DOLBY DIGITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| KNOCKED UP R18 2:10,4:50,7:30,10:10 | STARDUST G 12:00,2:35,5:10, 7:45,10:20 | HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30 |
| NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50 | MR.WOODCOCK PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20 | THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30 |

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE





# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

**SHANG CINEPLEX**

1 NO RESERVATION
2 THE SEEKER
3 KNOCKED UP
4 MR. WOODCOCK

PREMIERE
STARDUST

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati**
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

**starmall** EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 KNOCKED UP
4 STURDUST
5

**metropolis star cinema**
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433894

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

**THEATRES**
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

CHUCK & LARRY
LAST LEGION
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

**PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC**
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271

APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
RISE
RESERVED
RESERVED

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 HIGHLANDER -V
6 STURDUST
7 KNOCKED UP
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

**Blue Wave** MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 HIGHLANDER
4 RESERVED

**SUPER CINERAMA**
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

**MARKETPLACE**
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 KNOCKED UP
2 HIGHLANDER
3 MR. WOODCOCK

**Center Mall Cinema**
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4440346)

1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 KNOCKED UP

**Centre Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 UNDERDOG

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 STURDUST
4 MR WOODCOCK

**CINEMA 2000**
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 HOST
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 NO RESERVATION / DECEMBER BOYS
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 DAY WATCH
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

**Lianas Cinema**
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 HIRAM
4 CHUCK & LARRY

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 THE SEEKER : THE DARK IS RISING
4 BATANG MAGDALENA
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 NO RESERVATION
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 HOST
KAPAG ANG PALAY MAY BUMAYO

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
2 ONE PERCENT FULL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

# ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

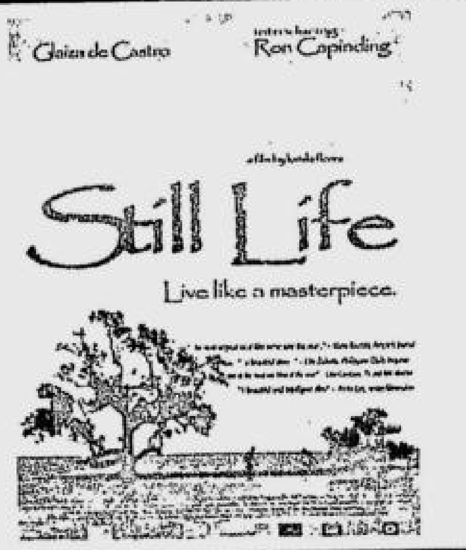
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

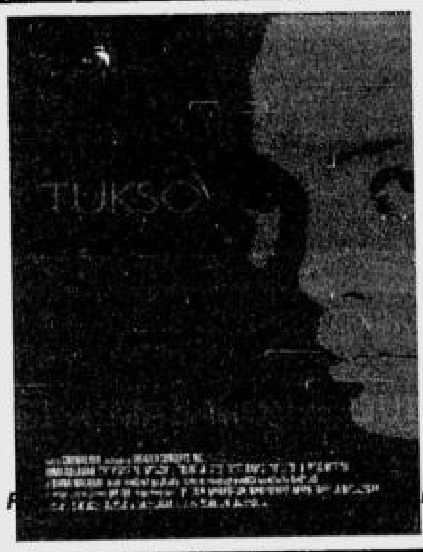
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## GALLERIA
Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-9116

1 STARDUST • THX
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 HIGHLANDER
4 KNOCKED UP
5 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
8 indieSine: TUKSO / STILL LIFE
9 NO RESERVATIONS
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## NOW SHOWING




## OCTOBER 17 to 23
*MTRCB Rating: PG13*

CINEMALAYA IndieSine

## ERMITA
Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST
3 KNOCKED UP
4 HIGHLANDER
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
7 RESIDENT EVIL 3

## METRO EAST
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 STARDUST
2 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER
5 KNOCKED UP
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

## NOVALICHES
Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPT APAT
4 STARDUST

## PIONEER
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 HIGHLANDER

## STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3

## LIPA
Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664 P.90 (043) 312-5870

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN

## DASMARINAS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## ANGELES
Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3 / DECEMBER BOYS

## TARLAC

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

## STARMILLS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-4927

1 THE SEEKER: DARK is RISING
2 KNOCKED UP
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 STARDUST
6 DECEMBER BOYS

## BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 STARDUST
6 indieSine: TUKSO

## ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

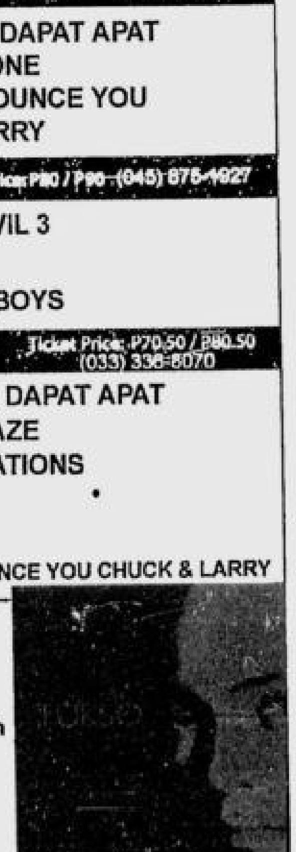
1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 DAYWATCH
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

*a film by Dennis Marasigan*

*CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner - Best Screenplay*

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld OCTOBER 17 to 23



# Eastwood City
presents

# 6cyclemind

Friday, October 19
8:00 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City
Tel: 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

Radio Partner: MAGIC 89.9

## EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to **2948** for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

*For inquiries, call:*
**687-6963**
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | KNOCKED UP | 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10 | R-18 |
| 2 | THE SEEKER | 1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 | GP |
| 3 | STARDUST | 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40 | G |
| 4 | MR. WOODCOCK | 3:15, 5:40, 8:05,10:40 | PG-13 |

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE — ALL AGES ADMITTED

**DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.**
**DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.**
**DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.**
**KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!**

Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan

Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS

**NO. 1 NA SA PATAWA, NO. 1 PA SA TAKILYA!**

VIVA

# SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA (SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP MTRCB R-18 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 STAR DUST MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE — MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13) 2:15, 4 35, 6:55, 9:15

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

**Catch the Cineplex Special**

Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

October 19 - 31
Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex
Level 6, Shangri-La Plaza

**October 19 (Friday)**
Summer with the Ghost 12:00 pm
The Kiss 2:00 pm
Dead Man's Hand 4:00 pm
Closely Watched Trains 6:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 8:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION Seats on a first come, first served basis.

**October 20 (Saturday)**
Kalya 12:00 pm
Leap 2:15 pm
FC Virus 4:15 pm
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 6:30 pm
La Mome 8:30 pm

**October 21 (Sunday)**
The Leopard 12:00 pm
Summer in Berlin 3:30 pm
Just Sex & Nothing Else 6:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 8:15 pm
You am I 9:20 pm

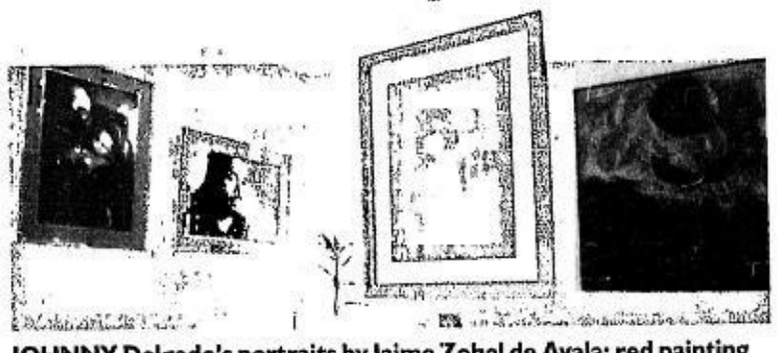
**October 22 (Monday)**
Facing Windows 12:00 pm
You am I 2:45 pm
Karakter 4:45 pm
Live of Others 7:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 10:00 pm

**October 23 (Tuesday)**
Meeting the Enemy 12:00 pm
Carol's Journey 2:30 pm
Jalial Jalial 4:45 pm
Taming of the Shrew 7:45 pm
Shooting Dogs 10:00 pm

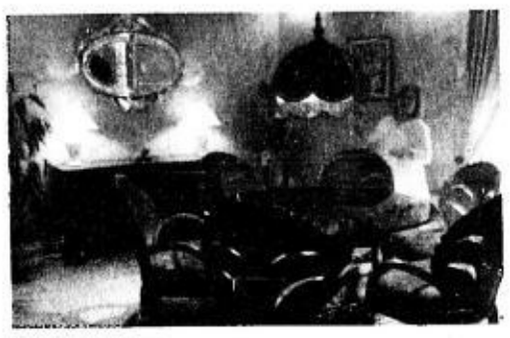
**October 24 (Wednesday)**
Closely Watched Trains 12:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 2:00 pm
The Kiss 5:30 pm
Summer with the Ghost 7:45 pm
Dead Man's Hand 9:40 pm

*Movies are subject to change without without prior notice.

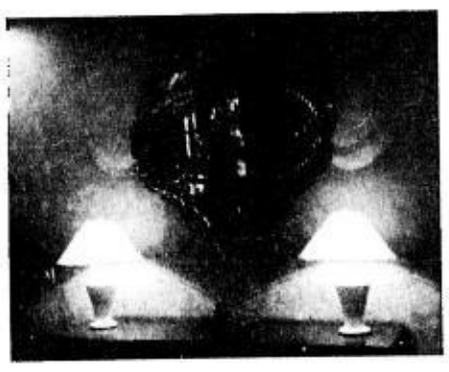
CARVED wooden panel from Jo-Liza, an antique shop in San Juan.



JOHNNY Delgado's portraits by Jaime Zobel de Ayala; red painting by Laurice Guillen; child art piece by Adi Baens.



THIS dining set is 20 years old.



HUNG on a red wall, a 30-year old mirror

OUTDOOR GROTTO. Laurice and Johnny are Our Lady of Lourdes devotees.

WOODEN shelf contains some of the trophies of the award-winning couple.

HOME BODY

# Perfect for a family of actors

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by August Dela Cruz

THE 200-SQUARE-METER townhouse of actor-film-makers Laurice Guillen and Johnny Delgado in Quezon City has a weird shape.

"It's long, curved and narrow. You go to one room and it leads to another room and another room..." said Laurice as she ushered Living Stars into the receiving area.

During the quick tour, Living Stars discovered that there are at least seven rooms on the ground floor alone. The library also serves as prayer room for some 10 people who meet once a month.

"When we bought this, we were still very active with the Actor's Workshop Foundation. The actors used to come here. It was thickly carpeted," Laurice said of the spacious room with yellow walls.

Just across the prayer room is the grotto, a very important spot for Laurice and Johnny, devotees of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The receiving area, Laurice said, used to be the kitchen. "We changed it. We tore down the walls," she explained.

The kitchen is very compact. Except for the monthly prayer meetings, Laurice said, there's hardly any cooking done here. "Only the kids (daughters Anna and Ina Feleo) eat here when they come home late at night after rehearsals," she said.

The viewing area is probably the most important room for this family of actors. It is equipped with a projector, a foldable screen and a pricey La-Z-Boy chair.

In one corner is a wooden shelf that holds all the trophies of the multi-awarded couple.

A white five-seater sofa from their old home has been placed on a raised platform.

The all-purpose hall with red walls is where the family entertains dinner guests. In the middle of the room is a dining set delicately carved in an *anahaw* (round palm) design. "These are more than 20 years old. It's from a furniture shop called Lincoln Gerard," the director said.

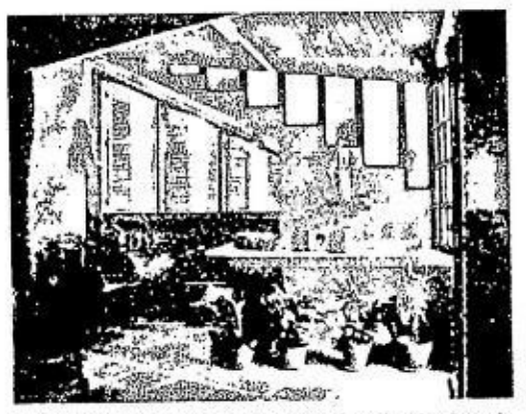
## Family area

Mounted on the wall is a carved wooden piece that "makes the wall look longer. It's hard to find something for a red wall," she said.

The lanai is where the family spends most of their time, "because Johnny smokes." Mounted on a wall are two paintings by Roberto Feleo, Johnny's father. "For years I didn't know where to put them. *Ang dilim kasi*. Finally, I found a perfect spot," Laurice said.

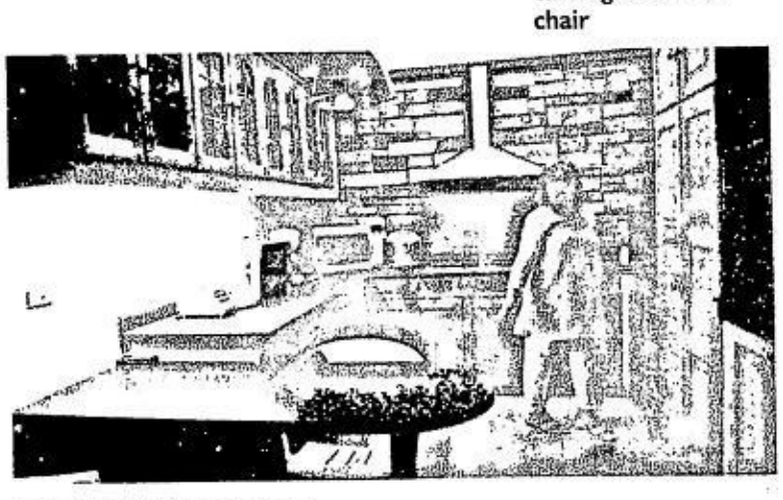
On the second floor is the office of their newly formed post-production company, Pixel Grain Inc., where they do subtitling and dubbing. The walls are painted white. "This is where Anna vocalizes. Nobody bothers her here," said the mom.

Laurice said she had trouble decorating the house at first. "*Madami kasing* conventions *dito*. But when you look at houses abroad, especially in New York, they don't seem to follow conventions. You eat where you want, even if it's far from your kitchen. That's what we did to this place."

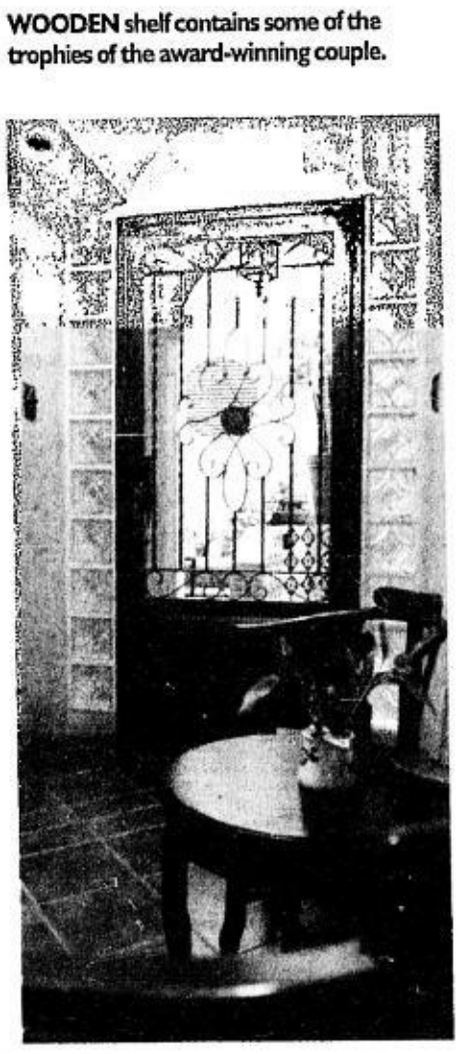


LIGHTED candles on the window in the lanai

DELICATE *anahaw* carving on dinner chair

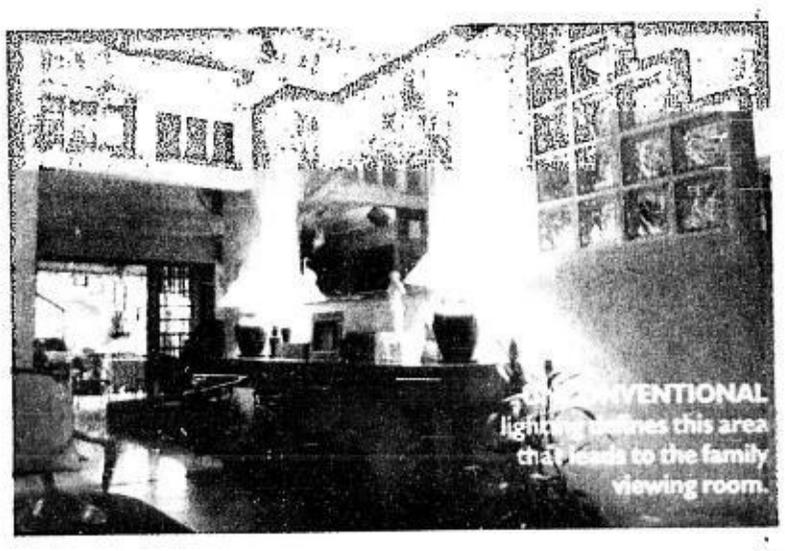


COOKING area is compact.

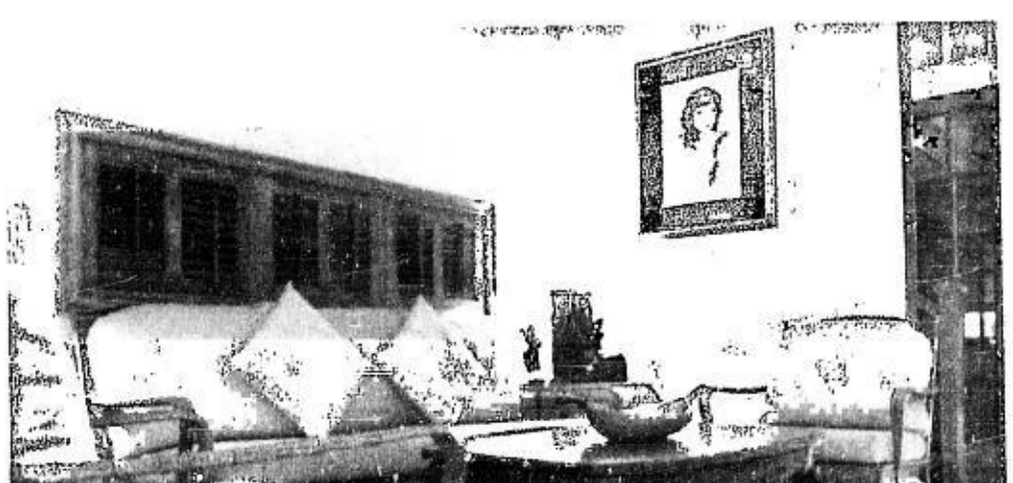


THIS DOOR is the only entry to the three-storey house.

PRINTED mat was bought during a trip to Fukuoka, Japan, reclining Buddha is from Jo-Liza and comfy couch, from La-Z-Boy.



UNCONVENTIONAL lighting defines this area that leads to the family viewing room.



LAURICE'S portrait in the receiving area is by Rafael del Casals.

FRAMED artwork is a gift from Jaime Zobel de Ayala.

THIS side of the house was copied from a book on Mediterranean architecture.

# A world record bid, and the 1st National Thank-You Day

FRANCIS Magalona and daughter Maxene

SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S biggest TV personalities top-bill a "National Thank-You Day" show tomorrow at the Mall of Asia.

The Dawn, Hale, Stonefree, Cynthia Alexander, Reggae Mistress and other bands will perform from 6 p.m. onwards at the Imax parking area.

The office of Manila Mayor Lim is hosting the event with Toblerone.

Celebrity hosts include: MYX VJ Luis Manzano, DJ and TV host Mo Twister, actress Bianca Gonzalez, and father-daughter tandem FrancisM and Maxene Magalona.

## Dance with Dina

The "unbreakable" Dina Bonnevie—glamorous actress, sometime TV host, and now ambassador for the Anlene Movement—is inviting all strong bone-concsious women (and men!) to a dance-a-thon at the CCP Complex tomorrow.

It's a bid for the Guinness World Record for biggest gathering of women dancing in one venue. The record is held by Ireland, which previously gathered around 7,600 women. Registration starts 6:30 a.m. at the Baywalk side of Roxas Boulevard (beside Manila Yacht Club). Other exciting activities such as a dance parade, aerobic and dance clinics, bone scan tests and freebies also await everyone.

Bonnevie is a healthy lifestyle and exercise advocate who swears by her unbroken high-calcium milk habit. And she loves to dance, she says—making her the perfect endorser for both the milk brand and tomorrow's event.

STARS FOR OTHERS

DINA Bonnevie

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| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 MR. WOODCOCK | 2 STARDUST | 3 THX HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 KNOCKED UP | 5 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER | 6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 7 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 MR. WOODCOCK | | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | |
| GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 3 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | | 2 MR. WOODCOCK | |
| | 3 STARDUST | 4 KNOCKED UP | 5 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 2 KNOCKED UP | 3 STARDUST | 4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | | 2 MR. WOODCOCK | |
| | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | 5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT | |
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Ayala Malls

glorietta — Urban Beats: Superbands at Glorietta featuring Taken by Cars and Mojofly; October 20; 6pm to 7:30pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT — Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park; October 25 to 28 and 31
ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Automatic Center; October 15 to 26; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU — Kasalang Filipino: Bridal Fair; October 19 to 21; Activity Center and Paseos
MARKET! MARKET! — Globe G-Cash Anniversary Event; October 20 & 21; Activity Center
Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids; August - December 2007; For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM — HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins; September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor; For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma — Rhythm Academy: The Company with the Las Piñas Boys Choir; October 20; 7pm; TriNoma Park

Rhythm Academy
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Featuring:
At theTriNoma Park Activity Center, 6pm
October 17: Rachel Alejandro with Coro Tomasino
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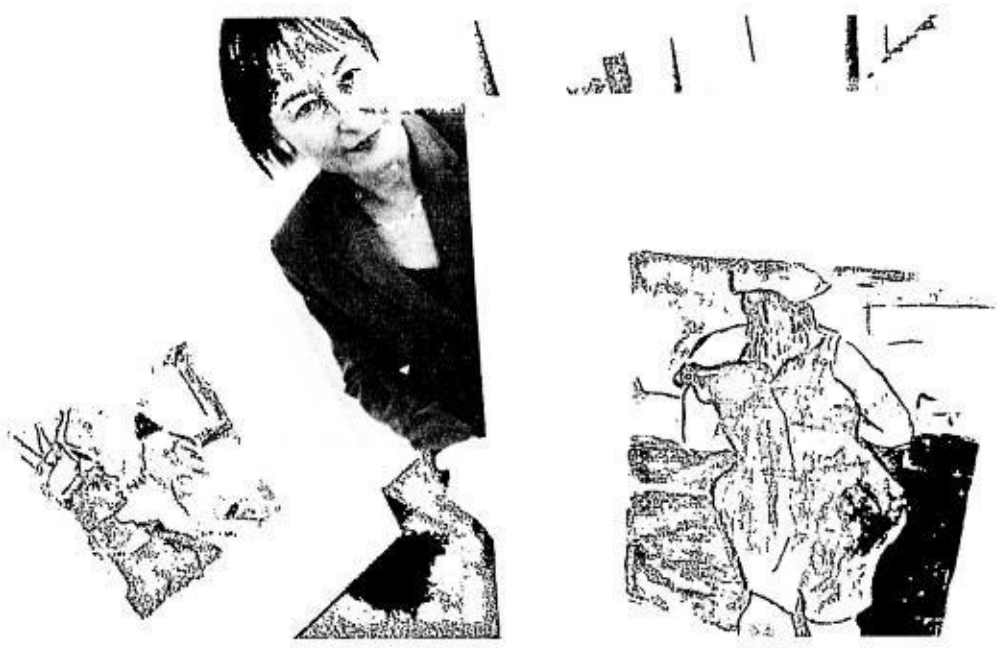
October 20: The Company with The Las Piñas Boys Choir
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

**COSTUMED ADMIRER**
Author J.K. Rowling signs for a bewitched young fan a copy of the seventh and final book in her magic-adventure series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," during an open book tour stop at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles. REUTERS



**BOB DYLAN'S PAINTINGS**
Chemnitz Art Collections museum director Ingrid Moessinger presents paintings by US rock legend Bob Dylan, in Chemnitz, Eastern Germany, where the first exhibit of his paintings will be seen. "The Drawn Blank Series" will run from Oct. 28, 2007 to Feb. 3, 2008 and will feature more than 200 paintings. AFP

DAVID Lynch AFP

# *Lynch's peace recipe*

JERUSALEM—ICONic filmmaker David Lynch says Israeli President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shimon Peres has "a very beautiful soul."

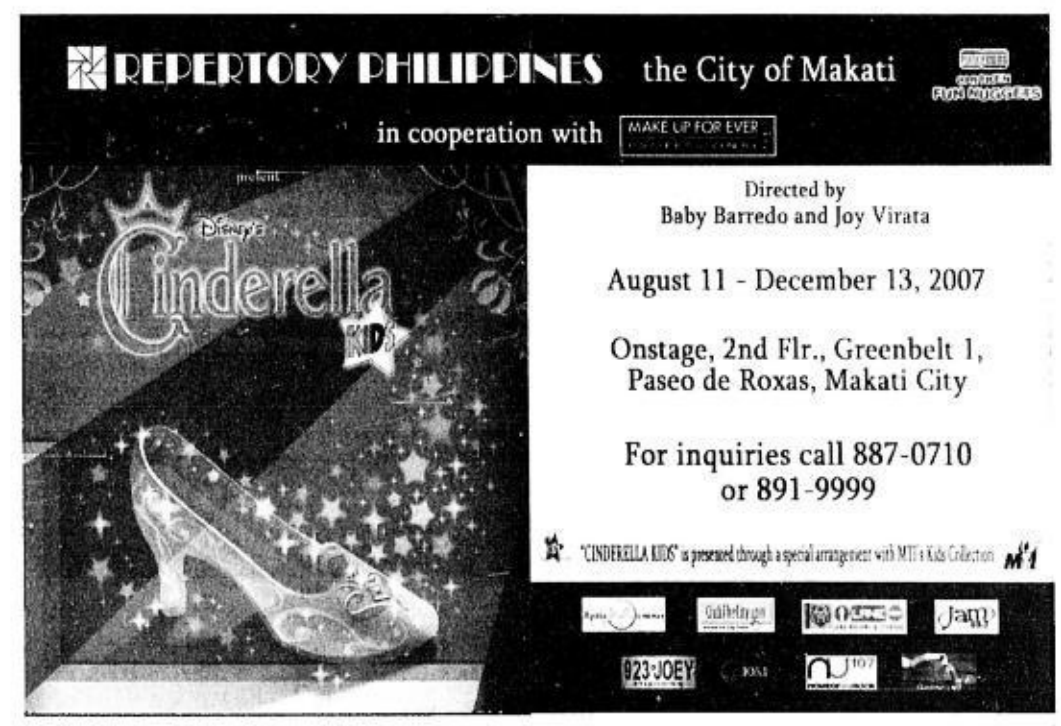
Lynch, on a five-day visit to Israel to encourage transcendental meditation (TM) as a new approach to eliminating violence in schools and creating a peaceful world, met with Peres Monday morning.

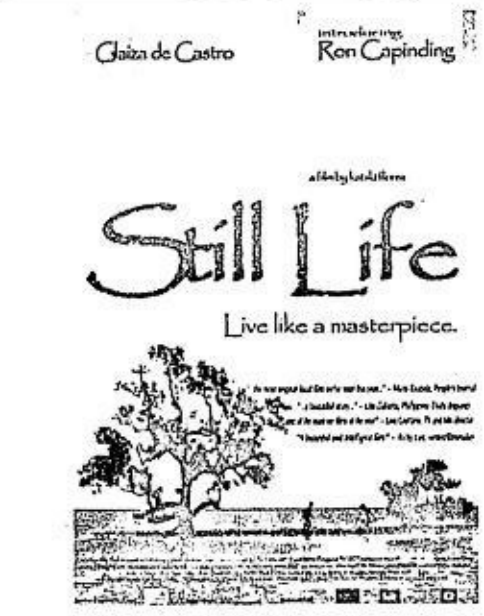
"Real peace is not just the absence of war, but the absence of all suffering, all negativity," Lynch said, speaking at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem Monday. "Change comes from within. From the first meditation, boom, you're there."

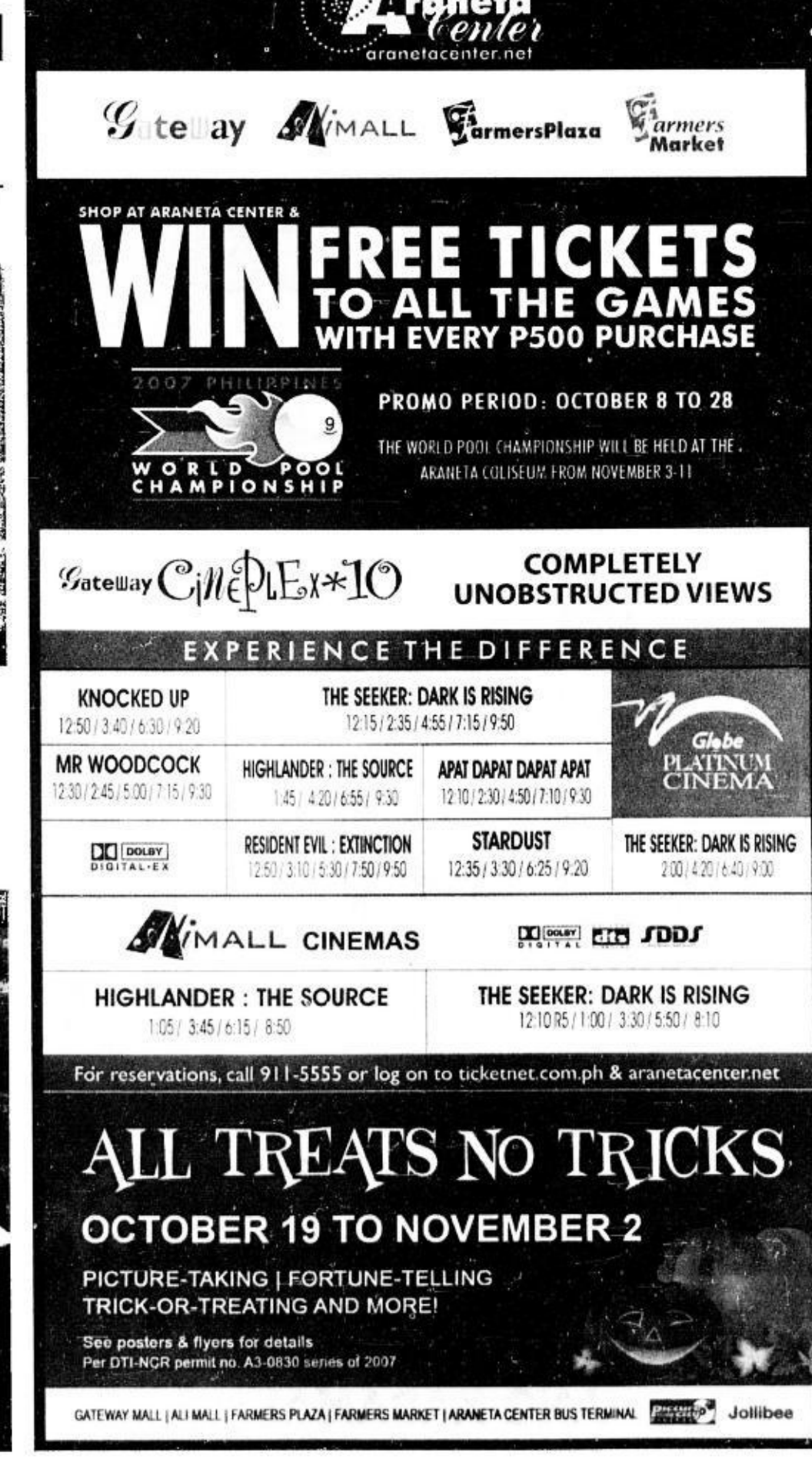
Lynch, best known for such surrealistic films as "The Elephant Man," "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Drive," has been meditating for more than 30 years. He started the David Lynch Foundation for Consciousness-Based Education and World Peace to promote TM as a way to aid students in violence-ridden schools and bring about world harmony.

Meditation can not only aid schoolchildren, but bring tranquility to troubled regions of the world as well, Lynch said.

"The experienced gardener doesn't worry about the leaves. Get at [the problem] from its roots," Lynch said. "A peace on the surface—it doesn't address the seeds of war... it's a 'peace' of paper." *Regan E. Doherty, AP*

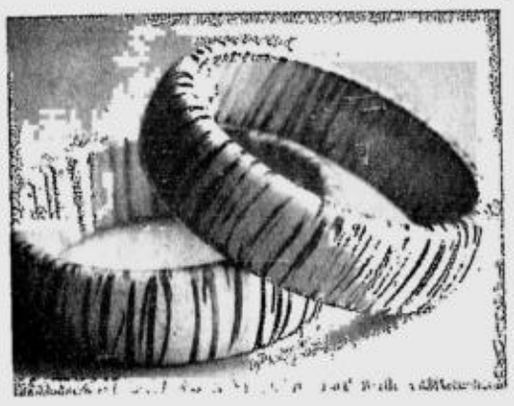






HOOP earrings are made of wood and sprayed gold; G clef ring is popular among singers.

CRYSTAL-studded lollipop necklace



ANIMAL print bangles foreseen to be the rage next year.

Chynna Ortaleza parlays her love for beads, bangles and bags into an online store

ACTRESS-designer carries Nevada, a champagne-and-gold bag made from faux snakeskin.

RED doctor's bag in faux croc skin

HOBBIES

# Confessions *of a* fashionista

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THREE-ring rocker medallion

THIS SELF-CONFESSED FASHIONISTA admits that she's a tightwad. "I'm not ashamed to admit I'm *kuripot*," exclaims GMA 7 star Chynna Ortaleza.

It's precisely her love for "beautiful but inexpensive" trinkets that has led her to design bangles, bracelets, cameos and necklaces, which she sells online (http://stellar01.multiply.com).

Ideas can crop up anywhere, she says. "I'm always surfing the Net, doing research."

She also gets inspiration by browsing through fashion glossies—training her eye on red carpet and paparazzi snaps of Hollywood celebrities Mischa Barton and Lindsay Lohan.

Quite a few of her show biz pals ask her for fashion tips, she says. "In a way, designing accessories allows me to style for my friends."

She gifted former "Pati Ba Pintig ng Puso" co-star Yasmien Kurdi with a crystal-studded key pendant. "But she also bought a cameo from me," she recalls. As bonus, "Pintig" co-star JC de Vera also bought a medallion for Yasmien.

"It bore the initials JC and, at the time, they were being linked in the *chismis* columns. I thanked them for making my line controversial," she recounts.

She has also started importing a few items. "Vintage pieces are the rage now. Next year, after metallics, orange is making a comeback. In terms of accessories, we'll see a lot of bronze and gold tones. Also, animal prints."

She named her budding venture Stellar, "after my favorite song by the Incubus," she says.

Later, her boyfriend Railey Valeroso pointed out that Stellar also bears the first three letters of her real name, Lara Serena.

Stellar made its debut at GMA 7's Noel bazaar last November.

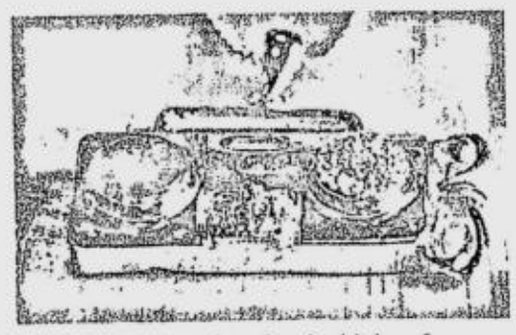
Almost a year later, Chynna is busy preparing for three bazaars—on top of regular tapings for the new GMA 7 soap opera "La Vendetta."

Extremely hands-on, Chynna does "everything" for Stellar—including taking the photos she posts online.

To meet the demand, mom Leah and assistants Katy and Glory have pitched in. "They now know how to cut chains and craft jewelry, but we still need extra pairs of hands."

That's because she's planning to expand her line, to include belts, hats and shoes. First stop, she now collaborates with a cousin for the bag line Bella.

"I've just posted photos of our bags online this week," she notes. "They're proudly Philippine made."



RADIO Daze pendant for the hiphop fan

**WORLD** / A21

**French president's wife** admits to falling in love with another man

**WORLD** / A22

**Putin attacks** US, announces new nuke bomb

**BUSINESS**/ B1

**IMF bullish** on investment flows to RP

**ACROSS** / A15

**Wanted former** election supervisor Lintang Bedol missing

**NEWS** / A2

**Richard Gomez** to be charged. with tax evasion

## Corals make love in the moonlight

WASHINGTON—You know how the song goes: "Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it." So why not corals?

In late spring, it is

CORALS/ A9

website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, October 20, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 314 P18

## US oil hits $90; no rise in local pump prices yet

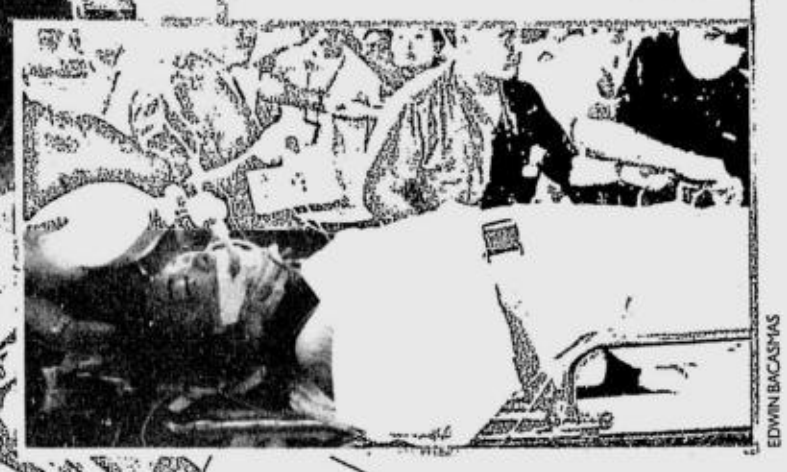
SINGAPORE—FOR THE FIRST time, US oil prices surpassed US$90 a barrel in after-hours trading in New York on speculative buying before slipping back on Friday in Asia.

Despite record crude prices in the world market, oil companies in the Philippines said they were holding off an increase in pump prices pending the issuance by the

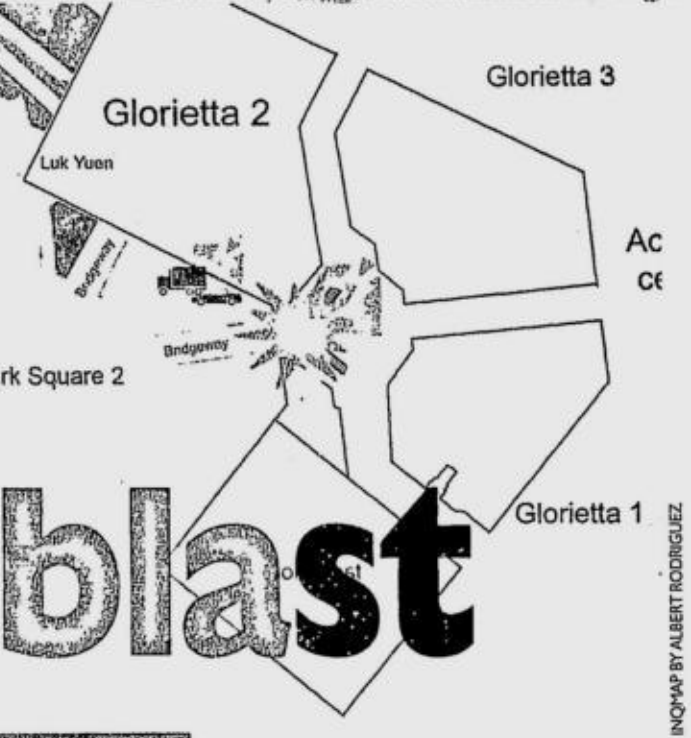
US OIL/ A8

**AFTERMATH** Grieving kin and friends of blast victims comfort each other outside the Makati Medical Center (below). Vehicles lie half-buried in rubble at Park Square II, Glorietta Mall, in Makati City (center photo) while emergency staff move an unconscious victim on a gurney (inset). Map shows site of explosion (right).

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



EDWIN BACASMAS




INQMAP BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

# 8 killed in Makati blast

## Explosion at Glorietta mall injures 119 others

By Alcuin Papa, Michael Lim Ubac and Julie Aurelio

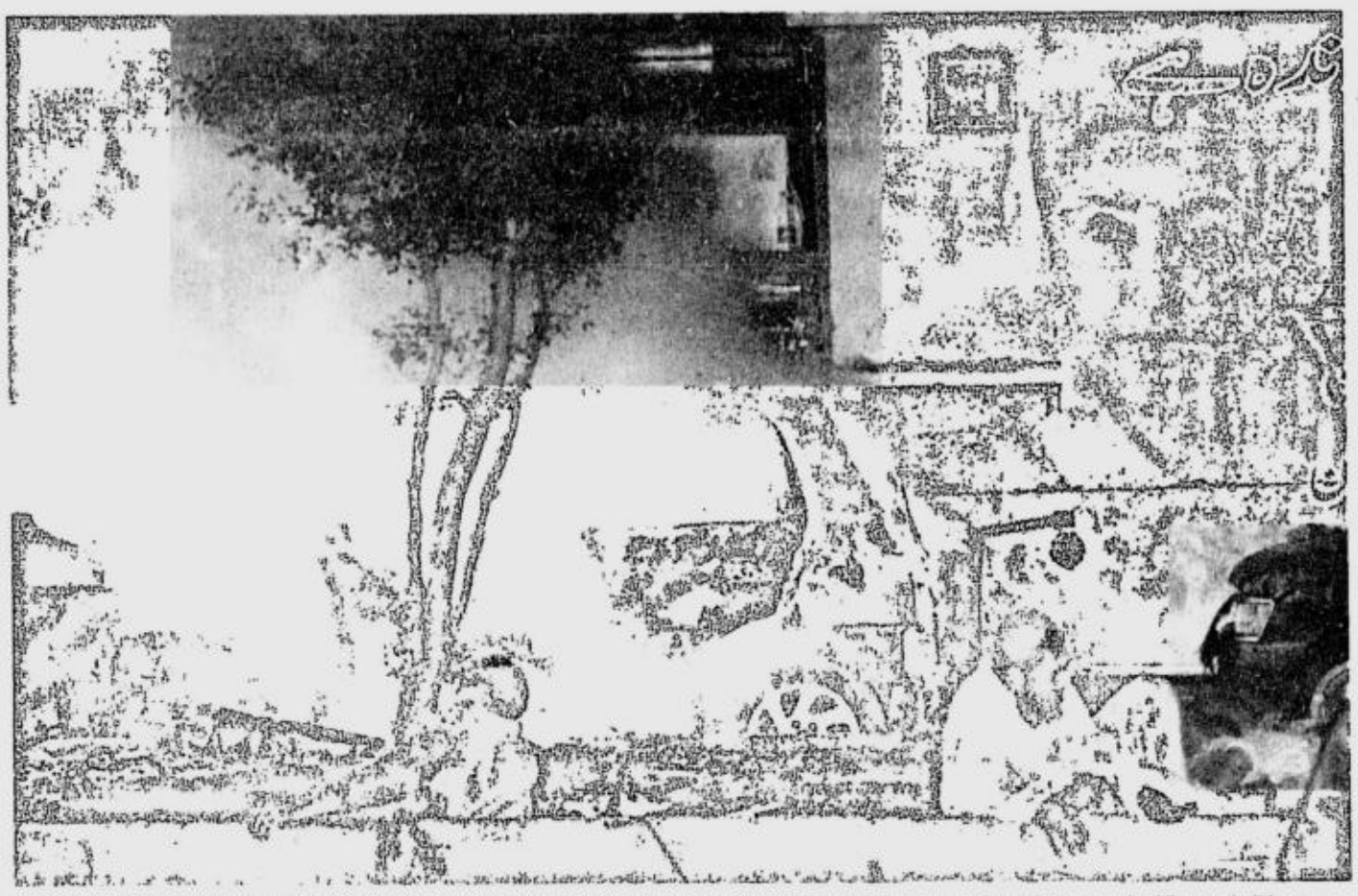
A POWERFUL EXPLOSION killed eight people and wounded more than a hundred others at Makati's financial center yesterday afternoon, heightening uncertainties in a country wracked by new political scandals and fresh challenges to President Macapagal-Arroyo's rule.

Police said the blast at about 1:30 p.m.—the fourth major bombing incident in Metro Manila in seven years—ripped through three floors of the Glorietta 2 shopping complex, toppling roofs, destroying walls, and sending debris crashing onto cars outside.

Shoppers scampered toward the exits as the blast shook the mall.

At least 119 people were injured, said Makati Councilor Junjun Binay.

8 KILLED/ A6



**MINDLESS CARNAGE.** Wounded men wait helplessly near burning vehicles, including a truck with a mural of Benazir Bhutto, after a suicide bomber attacked the former Pakistani prime minister's homecoming parade in Karachi on Thursday. AFP

## Bhutto parade attacked; 138 dead

KARACHI—FORMER PAKISTANI Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stood defiant on Friday after a suicide bomb targeting her homecoming parade killed 138 people and tipped the troubled country toward crisis.

Bhutto was unhurt, narrowly escaping with her life after climbing down into the interior of her vehicle just moments before the bomb and a grenade seconds earlier ripped through the police escort.

The streets of Karachi, packed with hundreds of thousands of her supporters, became a scene of bloody carnage.

It was the worst suicide attack in Pakistan's history, casting a long shadow over hopes that Bhutto's return with the approval of military ruler Pervez Musharraf might bring an end to months of political turmoil.

Blood and body parts were scattered widely across the scene. Doctors at

BHUTTO/ A9

## 'It was a huge explosion … I am happy I am alive'

By Leila B. Salaverria, DJ Yap and Nancy Carvajal

CRISTINE CALOPE THOUGHT THE blast she heard came from a nearby construction site where workers were demolishing a building.

In seconds, darkness enveloped the Glorietta 2 mall and pieces of concrete fell on 28-year-old Calope and her coworker at Robee's Stickers on the ground floor.

Then came the sounds of stampeding feet. Then piercing screams.

"It was a huge explosion," Calope said, recalling the terror that swept shoppers and employees following a blast that killed eight people and wounded about 100 others.

Chaos soon reigned.

IT WAS/ A6

## Big business seeks probe of 'cash gift'

By Ronnel W. Domingo *in Manila* and Tonette Orejas *Inquirer Central Luzon*

TWO LEADING BUSINESS GROUPS—the Makati Business Club (MBC) and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)—yesterday raised the need for a formal inquiry into Malacañang's purported distribution of money to lawmakers and local officials on Oct. 11.

BIG BUSINESS/ A8

## De Venecia says he and President need truce

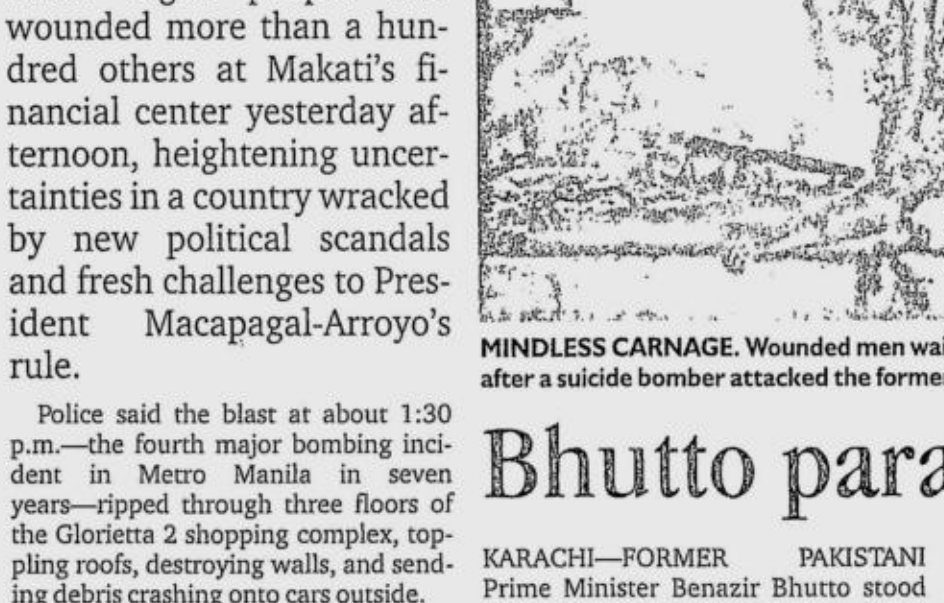


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANC

**CONGRESSMEN** stroll out of Malacañang carrying shopping bags (encircled) believed to contain money in this video grab furnished the INQUIRER by ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

By Christian V. Esguerra, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

A "TRUCE" WITH PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is what is needed, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday said in the wake of reports on their purportedly worsening political relationship.

While maintaining that the administration coalition remained strong, De Venecia said both Ms Arroyo and himself needed "long and intense soul-searching" and "a clearing of the air."

"[We] should think, not of differences, but of common courses of action," he told the INQUIRER on the

DE VENECIA/ A17

## Palace ignores bishops' resign-GMA call

By Michael Lim Ubac and Beverly T. Natividad

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY IGNORED fresh calls from Catholic prelates for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign amid the controversies and scandals besetting her administration.

"President Arroyo remains the duly elected and legitimate President of the republic," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, adding that she was "resolved to continue working for economic progress until the end of her term in 2010."

Bunye said the Church-based group Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME) did not speak for the whole Catholic Church, and that its call for Ms Arroyo's resignation was an isolated case.

PALACE/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent over the Bicol region which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Mostly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Mostly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Mostly Cloudy |

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/19/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2 — (In exact order)
11 30

FOUR DIGIT
3 2 3 8

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
1 9 9 | 1 1 4

MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 21 34 36 37 43
₱19,471,397.40

# Erap camp sees reversal

**WHAT'S SO FUNNY?**
As Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes appears serious in explaining a point, Science and Technology Secretary Estrella Alabastro and environmentalist Odeth Alcantara share a laugh—literally behind his back. The occasion was yesterday's press conference on climate change at the PNOC building in Fort Bonifacio. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

## Sandigan hears final arguments on plunder verdict

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DESPITE THE "DIFFICULT" questions posed by the Sandiganbayan during the four-hour oral arguments yesterday, the camp of convicted former President Joseph Estrada remained optimistic that the antigraft court would reverse its decision finding him guilty of plunder.

The court's Special Division allowed the prosecution and the defense to make their final take on the motion for reconsideration which Estrada filed on Sept. 26, urging the court to acquit him on claims that the information filed against him was defective.

"The questions posed to us clearly indicated that the court is seriously considering the reversal of their verdict," Jose Flaminiano said after the court adjourned the hearing.

Estrada himself, however, said he was not too hopeful that he would be acquitted despite the strong arguments raised by his lawyers.

"We may have strong arguments but there is a stronger power up there," he told the INQUIRER, referring to the Supreme Court which had earlier ruled on the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

Nevertheless, Estrada's friends—including his former cabinet members—and supporters were in a festive mood when they shared a catered lunch at a holding room on the sixth floor of the Sandiganbayan.

During the hearing, defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza reiterated that the amended information failed to establish a link that would bind the two offenses for which Estrada was convicted.

Estrada was convicted on two illegal acts—his systematic collection of P545 million in jueteng payoffs and his receipt of a P189-million commission from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares using state pension funds.

But Mendoza argued that the two acts were completely independent from each other with different sets of participants altogether.

The defense maintained that if there was anyone who should be tried and convicted of plunder, it should be former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and his employees who collected jueteng money, therefore performing the act of "amassing and acquiring" illgotten wealth.

## Richard Gomez to be charged with tax evasion

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IS SET to file tax evasion charges against actor Richard Gomez for failure to pay tax liabilities between 2000 and 2003.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the DOJ found probable cause to file criminal charges against Gomez based on the findings of the Bureau of Internal Revenue which cited Gomez for violations of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC).

The case against Gomez will be filed with the Court of Tax Appeals.

Devanadera said Gomez will be charged with violations of the NIRC's Section 254, for attempting to evade payment of taxes, and Section 255, for failure to file income tax returns.

The actor could be fined from a minimum of P10,000 to as high as P100,000 and jailed for anywhere from 1 to 10 years.

She said the DOJ's investigations showed that Gomez earned some P1.8 million from ABS-CBN television in 2001, but failed to declare it.

Gomez also failed to declare earnings amounting to P1.02 million in 2002 and P166,000 in 2003.

The BIR was able to trace Gomez's undeclared income through tax reports of the companies that were the sources of the actor's income the ABS-CBN and GMA7 TV firms. As corporations, the TV firms are mandated by law to report the payments they make to their talents to the BIR.

"The moral of the story is even if you claim you don't have that income, we will always have a way of verifying it," said Devanadera.

The DOJ and the BIR also cited Gomez's other sources of income, such as his stints as a lead actor in movies, as a TV actor in various serials, and as a fashion model and host.

The other sources of income in the 2000 to 2003 period which Gomez failed to declare included his earnings from five movies with Viva Films and Star Cinema, from two television series in GMA 7 and two in ABS-CBN, as well as earnings from endorsements of the clothing firm Bench.

Devanadera said while the BIR has not determined the exact amounts that Gomez earned from these jobs, the DOJ agreed with the BIR that Gomez would not have appeared in these shows without being paid for it.

According to Devanadera, for all that he failed to declare having earned these amounts from 2000 to 2003, Gomez was able to buy a piece of property in North Forbes Park in Makati worth P52 million.

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

■ **RP'S 1ST** solar car aces pre-race test /A4

■ **SHOUTING,** jeering mar court-martial /A5

## *Estrada wins furlough extension – for a song*

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CAN A SONG WIN THE HEARTS OF THE justices?

Jose Flaminiano, the lawyer of convicted ex-President Joseph Estrada, yesterday found out one could after he convinced the Sandiganbayan Special Division to extend Estrada's furlough until Sunday afternoon by crooning a line from an old Mother's Day song.

Estrada, who attended the oral arguments on his motion for reconsideration, was out yesterday on an overnight pass granted by the antigraft court so he could look after his ailing 102-year-old mother, Mary Ejercito.

The convicted leader was allowed to leave his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal, on Thursday morning. He was supposed to return to Tanay, where he has been detained since 2004, yesterday afternoon based on an earlier court order.

But at yesterday's proceedings, Flaminiano appealed before the court to allow Estrada to stay longer at the San Juan Medical Center, including two more nights at his Polk Street residence.

"We are appealing once again to the liberality and compassion of the court in granting Estrada a longer visit with his mother whose condition became unstable again this morning," Flaminiano said before singing.

"When you lose your mother, you lose the best of all," he crooned, drawing laughter from the audience in the courtroom.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who did not object to the lawyer's request, was caught off-guard by Flaminiano's antic. "This is the first time I see a lawyer argue by singing," he said.

"And because of that we will grant your motion," answered Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

In granting the motion, the court also asked the consent of the police, which assured the Sandiganbayan that it has enough personnel to secure Estrada over the weekend.

Estrada was elated that the court allowed him to stay overnight at his Polk residence.

"The first time was when I attended the wedding of my son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito. Last night was my second time and it feels good to be back," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

# Soldiers to get combat pay hike

THE GOVERNMENT PLEDGED YESTERday to come through with a promised pay increase for combat troops fighting communist and Muslim insurgencies, defusing a potential rift within the military.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, told AFP the government had the money, and that soldiers on the front lines would get their P150 a day rise in combat pay.

Armed forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, had said earlier in the week that the money, promised by Ms Arroyo in September, could not be paid because of "limitation of funds."

Bunye told AFP a check for P73 million from the Presidential Social Fund would be handed over to the defense secretary on Monday.

The issue came to a head during the week amid rumors of unrest within the military following allegations that P120 million in bribes were paid by officials to block a new impeachment bid against Ms Arroyo.

The issue saw the powerful Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) scathingly describe the political leadership as morally bankrupt.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano urged troops yesterday not to be influenced by the controversy, telling them to "stay focused, concentrate on the mission and how to accomplish that mission."

He said soldiers were aware of the bribery allegations but stressed "that does not mean they will interfere with issues that are not within their realm. They have more important things to do." *AFP*


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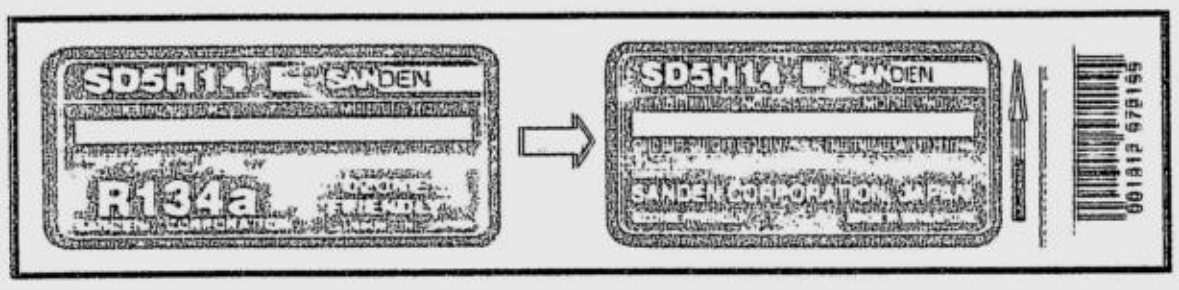


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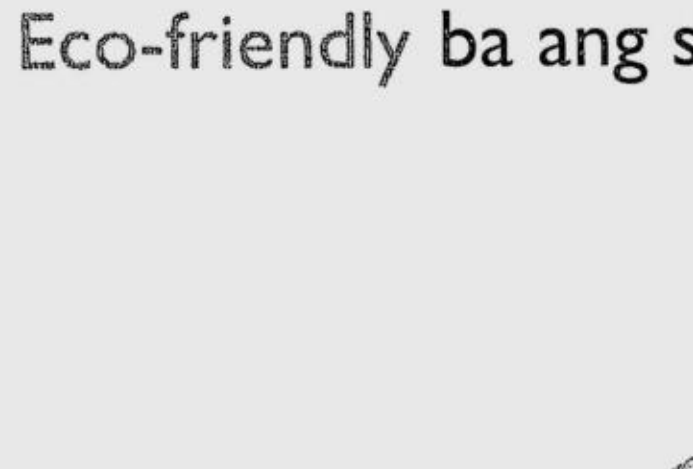


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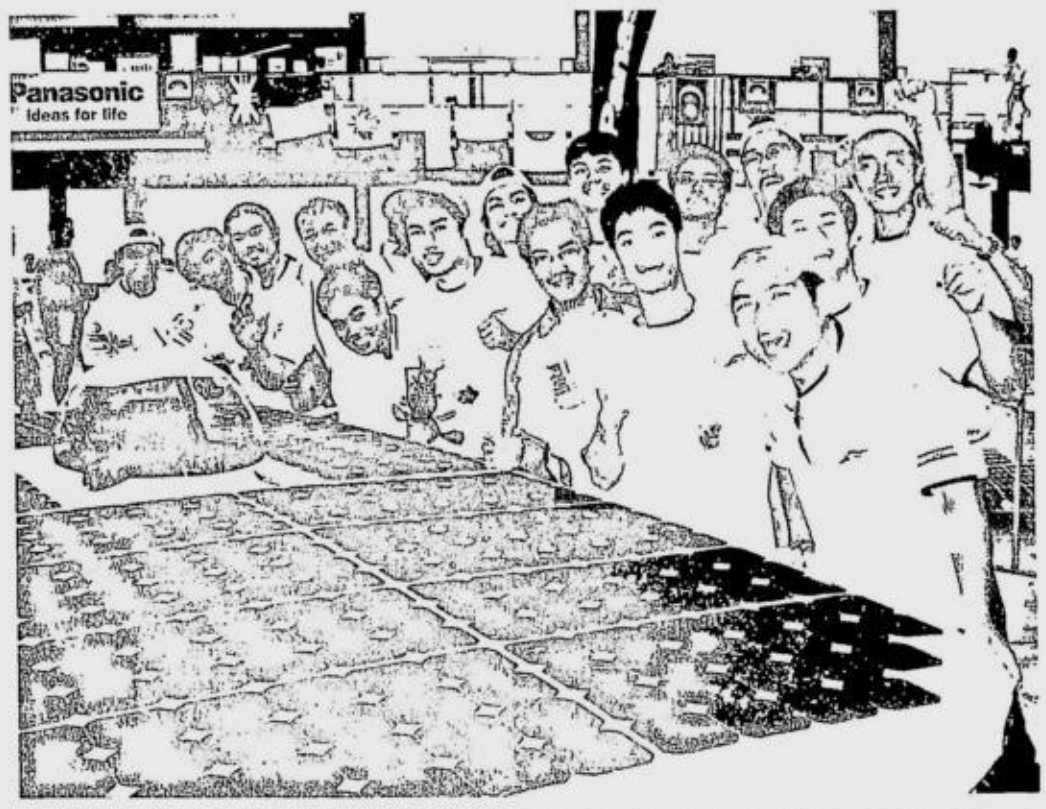


THE JUBILANT Team Sinag of the Philippines "perfects" the 20th World Solar Challenge "scrutineering" process at the Foskey Pavilion in Darwin, Australia. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# RP's 1st solar car aces pre-race test

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA—THE PHILIPPINES' first solar-powered car, Sinag, hurdled Friday the "scrutineering" or qualifying test conducted by the 20th World Solar Challenge (WSC) organizing committee.

Sinag's qualification now paves the way for the Philippines' official participation in the 3,000-km solar race from Darwin to Adelaide on Oct. 21-28.

During the test, the solar car underwent thorough mechanical and electrical checks. Most parts of the car were measured and weighed to make sure it conformed to the WSC's rules and regulations. The car's batteries were inspected, properly labelled and secured to prevent tampering and unauthorized usage.

Weighing 295 kilos, Sinag instantly became the day's star with WSC officials expressing amazement at the car's stability and safety compliance.

"The Philippines' entry really did great today!" said Jacqui Williams of the WSC Committee.

### Perfect in scrutineering

The committee told members of the all-Filipino team that the car has "perfected the scrutineering." This means that Sinag has passed all the requirements, and there is no need for the car to undergo a second round of scrutineering.

"By passing the scrutineering today, we can now prepare and focus our efforts on the race," overall technical team leader Rene Fernandez said.

During the past two days, some entries from other countries were advised to come back until they have complied with all the requirements set by the race committee.

Other participants from other countries could not resist dropping by Garage No. 4 of the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex which houses the Filipino solar car.

"Many of them said our car is really sturdy and stable," says Robert Obiles, Overall Student Leader of Team Sinag.

"They found our triple shock absorber rear suspension very unique," adds Mico Villena, the team's mechanical student leader.

Sinag's triple shock absorber rear suspension allows reduced fishtailing and a smoother, more stable ride. Solar cars from other teams only feature dual suspension, making the Philippine entry the only solar car with this unique suspension advantage.

### Cautiously optimistic

In spite of the praise and encouragement, Team Sinag is cautiously optimistic of its chances in the race.

"This is our first time to join the WSC, after all. In completing the car and getting a perfect score in scrutineering, we feel we have already triumphed in our goals. If we finish or win the race, that's a big bonus. The eight months spent preparing for this was well worth it, said Obiles."

The Sinag solar car was designed and built by teachers and students from the Mechanical Engineering and the Electronics and Communications Engineering Departments of De La Salle University–Manila.

The project was supported by Ford Group Philippines, Motolite, Philippine Airlines, San Miguel Corp., Shell, SunPower, U-Freight, and Ventus. It was also supported by Aurora, Cabrera Lavadia and Associates, JWT, CreAsia, Merritt Partners, Tuason Racing School, Gochermann Solar Technology, and Stratworks.

### A step closer

"We're a step closer to the race! This is a big success for the Philippine Team as we proved to the world that we have the capacity and knowledge in developing renewable sources of energy such as solar power," said Prince Ang, logistic head of the team.

For more information and updates on the Sinag Team, please log onto www.philippinesolarcar.org.

# Excommunicated Bicol priest appeals to bishop

SORSOGON CITY—FR. ALEJANDRE Galias, who was excommunicated by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes for breaking the "seal of confession," said he plans to see the bishop to iron out their differences so he could perform his priestly duties again.

In a decree dated Sept. 21, 2007, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sorsogon declared the penalty of "latae sententiae excommunication" against Galias, a priest who used to head the Sisters of Mary Adorers of the Holy Eucharist (Smahe).

Excommunication means the exclusion of a Catholic from the community of the Church for misconduct.

Reached by phone, Galias who is in Samar, confirmed he was excommunicated but said the order was questionable, saying he was not given due process.

He pointed out that he was not properly informed of his supposed violation and was not even allowed to meet his accuser.

"The fact that I was accused of breaking the seal of confession means that somebody complained against me, so who was the complainant?" said Galias.

He said Bastes was not fair to him, adding that the bishop had an ax to grind against him.

Bastes earlier declared Smahe as an illegal organization for lack of authority from the diocese and the Vatican.

In an earlier interview, Bastes said Smahe had no decree of erection, an authority conferred by a bishop on a congregation for it to exist legally.

But Galias claimed that Smahe had a decree which was issued by Bishop Emeritus Jesus Varela, Bastes's predecessor.

Bastes debunked the priest's claim, saying Smahe's documents were incomplete.

Asked how the excommunication affected him, the 58-year-old priest said it had no negative impact on him as he continues to do his regular routine.

He refused to confirm or deny, however whether he still says Mass as a priest. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*


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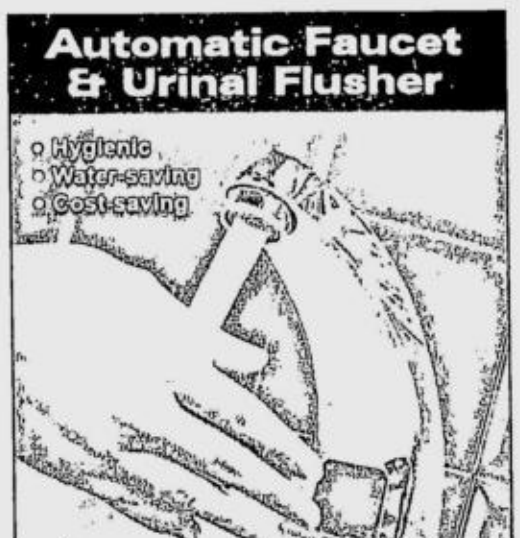

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# Shouting, jeering mar court-martial

THE SPECTACLE OF THE ACCUSED SHOUTing and jeering at a military court forced the suspension of yesterday's hearing in the court-martial of 28 Marine and Army scout rangers being tried for involvement in the February 2006 attempted coup.

The commotion was triggered by the panel's alleged refusal to hear a motion from the defense for the pre-trial advice (PTA)—the basis for the filing of charges—to be voided because it did not have the signature of Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.

The hearing being conducted at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, where some of the accused are being detained, was already marked by tension with the defense lawyers wearing red arm bands and the accused soldiers waving red handkerchiefs.

But Trixie Cruz-Angeles, the lawyer of Army Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, claimed there were serious legal issues involved.

"An unsigned PTA means it has no value. It's an unsigned document which means our clients have been inappropriately charged," she said in a phone interview.

The PTA, on the recommendation of Esperon, reversed the findings of a pre-trial investigation that cleared most of the accused officers of charges of mutiny and violations of the Articles of War for allegedly planning to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo during the attempted coup.

The unsigned PTA raised serious questions about the jurisdiction of the court-martial over the accused, Angeles said.

Angeles said the panel did not give the defense lawyers a chance to raise their concerns about the unsigned PTA, prompting the accused soldiers to vent their frustration.

According to the lawyer, the soldiers stood up and started jeering at the panel, their actions progressing into shouting as the panel vainly tried to call for order.

At least three accused soldiers shouted at the panel members in Filipino, "You are making fools of us."

When the panel asked who among the accused had shouted, Angeles said Army Capt. Frederick Sales immediately said it was him.

He was promptly cited in contempt by the court.

"The others also wanted to be cited in contempt," Angeles said. *Nikko Dizon*

# Expert warns of RP isolation if Jpepa is nixed

AS ASIAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION gathers pace, the Philippines risks isolation and millions of dollars of potential investment if the Senate rejects a free-trade deal with Japan, an expert warned yesterday.

"In terms of trade we'll be at a competitive disadvantage with our neighbors who are negotiating or implementing economic partnership agreements with Japan," said Ceferino Rodolfo, of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The Senate has dragged its feet on the deal with Tokyo, the country's No. 2 trading partner. Senate public hearings on the treaty resume on Nov. 8.

The treaty was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, but senators say they are not convinced it will be good for the country.

Rodolfo, head of the management school at the university, said in negotiating the deal, Ms Arroyo sought to draw Japanese multinationals into setting up production bases here instead of other Southeast Asian neighbors.

Vietnam, South Korea, and India among others are all negotiating bilateral free-trade deals with Tokyo. *AFP*

# 8 killed in Makati blast

From page A1

Police could not immediately say who was behind the bombing, what type of explosive was used, and what was the motive.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and other officials scoffed at speculation that government people were behind it supposedly to divert attention from Ms Arroyo's political troubles and justify emergency rule.

"What kind of minds are these," an exasperated-sounding Gonzales said in a television interview.

Taxi driver Mario Em said he had just dropped off two female passengers at the mall when the blast hurled the two women against his cab, killing them instantly.

He said he pulled one of the victims, who was pregnant, from underneath his car.

"The blast was so loud I lost hearing," he said.

### Two explosions

Police initially suspected the blast was caused by an exploding cooking gas cylinder in a restaurant, but police sources later said they found traces of plastic explosives at the site.

They said the bomb was apparently left near a cell phone repair shop in Glorietta.

Investigators said there were actually two explosions. The first rocked the delivery area of the Luk Yuen restaurant on the left side of the entrance to Glorietta 2. Seconds later, a smaller explosion rocked the right side of the entrance.

"There was gray and black smoke ... We are leaning more toward IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," one investigator said.

### Red alert

Police declared the highest state of alert in Metro Manila, and Ms Arroyo said in a statement she was "deeply saddened" by the incident and ordered police to investigate "and to leave no stone unturned."

The Glorietta explosion occurred the same day that three Roman Catholic bishops called on Ms Arroyo to step down amid scandals rocking her administration.

These included allegations that paper bags filled with money were distributed to politicians recently in Malacañang amid moves to impeach her and earlier allegations that a telecommunications deal with China's ZTE Corp. was marked by offers of bribe.

Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay, in a statement issued from Fukuoka, Japan, where he is attending a scouting conference, called for a thorough investigation of the bombing "to dispel speculations about a possible link between the explosion at Glorietta and recent political developments."

"Given the political situation, these speculations cannot be helped," said Binay, an opposition leader.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo visits victims of the Glorietta 2 bombing at the Makati Medical Center Friday night. With the President is Health Secretary Francisco Duque. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

## *GMA warns foes: Don't exploit bombing to destabilize gov't*

HOURS AFTER A POPULAR Makati mall was rocked by a powerful explosion, President Macapagal-Arroyo warned "those who seek to exploit this incident to destabilize our government for their selfish political motives."

Ms Arroyo made the call in a taped television speech after presiding over an emergency meeting of the National Security Council.

"We assure everyone that a full-blown investigation is now under way," she said.

Ms Arroyo urged all sectors to remain vigilant.

"I am deeply saddened by this unfortunate incident and I extend my sincerest sympathies to the families of those who were killed and wounded," she said.

"During these trying times we call on the people to pray for peace and unity."

Ms Arroyo visited the victims at the Makati Medical Center last night and talked to some of those injured.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral said the injured would be given P5,000, while families of the deceased would get P10,000. *Michael Lim Ubac*

### Extremist forces

Alberto Lim, executive director of the Makati Business Club, said if the explosion was a bomb attack, "it can be due to extremist forces that are taking advantage of the current political turmoil."

"If this was a bomb, it is bad for business confidence. Investors are nervous enough about political developments," Lim said shortly after the explosion occurred.

Al-Qaida-linked militants, who have waged a yearslong bloody bombing campaign in Mindanao, have targeted Manila before.

### Previous bombings

In December 2000, blasts at the Light Railway Transit killed 14 people and injured about 100. In February 2004, at least 116 people died in the country's worst terrorist attack when a bomb exploded aboard a SuperFerry ship on Manila Bay.

A year later, four people were killed in the Valentine's Day bombing of bus in Makati.

"This is a terrible incident," Gonzales said in an interview on ANC. But he quickly stressed that Ms Arroyo had no reason to place the country, or at least the capital, under emergency rule.

Gonzales said security officials were looking at a "possible terrorist attack" that might be connected to the foiled bombing in Tacurong City last Wednesday.

"We can't rule out a connection," he said.

### Abu Sayyaf?

To ensure the security of the public, Gonzales said the government had deployed 2,000 police personnel around Metro Manila for "monitoring and safeguarding" the public.

Residents should expect long lines for security checks, he said.

A security official involved in counterterrorism said urban terrorists allied with the Abu Sayyaf Group could have carried out the bombing as part of their "plans to sow terror" in the metropolis.

"Metro Manila has always been in their plans. They have always wanted to launch terrorism in the city," the official, who requested for anonymity, said in a telephone interview.

The official said the military had captured several ranking terrorists but that most of them were later released on bail.

The official cited the arrest and eventual release last month of Ka Salud, a brother of ranking alleged terrorist Usman Basit.

A suspected terrorist who was arrested and found with explosives in his possession while on board a ship in Cebu was also later freed on bail, he said.

### Escalator was target?

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the Glorietta explosion.

Police said the blast may have been caused by a "high explosive" based on the damage it had caused.

They said the reported leak of an liquified petroleum gas tank at the Luk Yuen restaurant was actually a secondary or "sympathetic explosion."

"Right now we cannot say what kind it (the explosive) was, if it was C4," said Chief Inspector Raynold Rosero of the Philippine Bomb Data Center. He said he was "80 percent sure" the explosion came from a bomb.

The shock wave from the blast tore a crater on the floor near the restaurant, he added.

Ambulances and police were quickly at the scene.

Blocks of cement had fallen from an upper story of the shopping mall, hitting cars parked below and spreading a film of dust. Scores of windows in nearby shops were shattered.

Charlie Nepomuceno, an employee at Glorietta, said the explosion appeared to have centered on an escalator which was near the cell phone repair shop.

"It left a deep crater at the foot of the escalator," he said. "It also ripped open the roof of the building. I saw a man thrown on to the roof who had lost a leg."

He said a badly mangled body of a woman was near the escalator.

Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon dismissed talk the government perpetrated the bombing as a prelude to the declaration of martial law.

Police Director Geary Barias of the National Capital Region Police Office said he had coordinated with other units to augment security in big malls, depots, airports, and bus terminals.

"There is no need to panic," he said. *With reports from Fe Zamora, Kristine Alave, Nikko Dizon and Jeanette Andrade*

## TIMELINE

### Metro terror attacks

**May 17, 2000**—A homemade explosive rocks the Glorietta Mall at 5:02 p.m., injuring 12 persons, mostly teenagers. The bomb was reportedly placed in front of a toilet beside a video arcade.

The blast causes the collapse of the ceiling of the pedestrian bridge connecting Glorietta 3 to Park Square 2.

**May 21, 2000**—A janitor is killed and 17 are injured when a bomb exploded inside a comfort room in a cinema at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Before dawn on May 27, 2000, the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force raids a community in Taguig and arrests 26 suspects in both the Glorietta and Megamall bombings.

**Dec. 30, 2000**—Fourteen people are killed and 91 more are injured in synchronized bombings in different parts of Metro Manila. The targets include a Light Rail Transit coach, Plaza Ferguson in front of the US Embassy in Manila, an abandoned gasoline station in front of Dusit Hotel in Makati City, a passenger bus in Cubao, Quezon City, and the cargo handling section of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

Captured in January 2002 for illegal possession of explosives is Jemaah Islamiyah member Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian who admits funding the attacks. He is sentenced in April 2002 to 12 years in prison, but escapes on July 14, 2003 from Camp Crame with two suspected Abu Sayyaf members. They are later killed in what was seen as a case of summary execution.

**Feb. 27, 2004**—A bomb explodes inside a SuperFerry ship that is sailing off Manila Bay, killing over 100 people. The Abu Sayyaf Group later claims responsibility for the killings.

**Feb. 14, 2005**—Four people are killed and at least 60 more are wounded when a passenger bus was bombed in Makati City. On the same day, a mall in General Santos City and a bus terminal in Davao are also bombed, killing four and injuring 36.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Solayman says on radio: "This is our Valentine gift to Gloria."

On Oct. 28, 2005, Makati City Judge Marissa Macaraig-Guillen sentences to death Indonesian Rohmat Abdurrohim and Filipinos Gamal Baharan (alias Tapay) and Angelo Trinidad (alias Abu Khalil) for the Valentine's Day bombings.

A fourth accused, Gappal Bannah Asali (alias "Boy Negro"), escaped the death penalty by turning state witness. *Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research*

## Business as usual at Glorietta

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

ALFONSO REYES, SPOKESPERson of Glorietta owner Ayala Land Inc., yesterday assured the public the management had adequate security personnel, bomb sniffing dogs and security cameras at the Glorietta malls.

"We fully intend to open the malls tomorrow at 10 a.m. And yes, it would be safe to go to the malls," Reyes said.

"We are extremely saddened by this incident. We would like to assure the public that we are taking all possible measures to ensure that all affected by this incident will be attended to with maximum care," ALI president Jaime Ayala said.

Some stock market brokers said if the blast was traced to a bomb, this could spark fears that global terrorism had reached Philippine shores, which could drag the stock market down from its recent all-time high.

PCCI Securities president Francisco Liboro said the stock market might be in a selling mood next week arising from fears of terrorist attacks in Manila.

## 'It was a huge explosion ... I am happy I am alive'

From page A1

Calope said she escaped from the rubble by kicking away the pieces of concrete that fell on her. Without bothering to get her things, including her money, she joined the mad dash out of the mall.

In a blood-flecked T-shirt, Calope felt lucky she got away with just a few scratches on her arm, and three stitches on her left pinkie finger.

### They didn't make it

"I am happy I am alive," she said, noting that her birthday was barely three weeks away.

Dr. Anthony Golez, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense who was at the Makati Medical Center, identified four of those who died on the spot as Liza Enriquez, Janine Marcos, Lester Peregrina and Jose Allen de Jesus. The others remained unidentified at press time.

The damage to the shopping complex was extensive.

The entrance to the mall, the lobby and the activity center were a total wreck, buried under piles of wooden planks, slabs of cement, and parts of the roof.

Delivery vans and cars parked outside were destroyed, as were the escalator on the ground floor lobby which, based on television footage, was split in half.

### Intensity 9 quake

Edwin Ferrer, 41, a sushi chef at a Japanese restaurant on the second floor, said the blast occurred at exactly 1:40 p.m.

"I was sending text messages when it happened, so I was sure," he told the INQUIRER.

"At first we didn't know what was going on. Then there was dust and smoke all over. We couldn't see a thing. People were panicking and running toward the exits. We tried to stay calm but it was terrifying," he said.

Ferrer said: "If that was an earthquake, it was probably Intensity 9."

A weeping woman was heard talking on the phone, saying she heard one of her companions was dead. A television news crew tried to interview her, but her foreigner companion angrily asked them to go away.

One of the injured, Teresita de la Cruz, 24, recalled thinking: "Are we going to die here?"

"People were shoving each other and running in all directions. I was very scared," she said.

De la Cruz, a saleslady for a custom sticker company, said the blast likely originated from somewhere on the second floor near the escalator.

But the police, citing initial reports, said the blast might have originated from the storeroom of the Luk Yuen restaurant.

Edgar Ducal 20, a trainee janitor, was inside a comfort room when the mall shook.

### In the dark

Groping in darkness, he carried three injured victims toward the mall's entrance and brought them to Ospital ng Makati in a taxi.

Ducal said he could no longer recall if he had paid the taxi driver.

He said he was at his assigned area in the comfort room of the mall's second floor when he heard the explosion.

"The building shook, the ceiling fell and the lights went out," Ducal said in Filipino.

At the hospital, 3-year-old survivor Jemarie Claudio recalled how a man had lifted her and taken her to safety after her "ninang" had pushed her away as the escalator they were began to crash to the ground.

She said her Ninang Bong had pushed her so she would not get hurt.

### Memorable lunch

Eighty-one-year-old Carmen Enriquez, who had just enjoyed lunch with her family, was among those who got caught in the crush of people.

She remembered the sounds of glass shattering and flying.

She said she was told to run but she couldn't run as fast and fell down.

The family's househelp, Jasmin Manlangit, carried her so that the stampeding crowd wouldn't trample her.

### Running for the light

Randy Nayve, 33, said he was a few steps away from the mall's entrance when he heard the explosion.

"It seems that the explosion came from under the escalator where I was standing," Nayve said.

He said he heard people screaming for help but he could not do anything.

"There was a total blackout. I could not see anything and I was feeling dizzy," he said. He struggled to get out.

"And then I saw light," Nayve said.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr. (center) inspects damaged interior of Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City on Friday. At right is National Capital Region Police Office Director Geary Barias. AFP/PNP PHOTO

# Protect water, DENR reminded

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE GREENPEACE ENVIRONMENTAL group yesterday delivered bottles of groundwater samples to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources head office in Quezon City.

Greenpeace said the water samples, contained in four 1-liter sampling bottles, were meant to remind the environment agency of its urgent mandate to protect dwindling freshwater resources from toxic pollution.

The samples were taken from sites within the Cavite Economic Processing Zone (Cepza), where Greenpeace allegedly found severe instances of chemical contamination.

The bottles were marked "Refreshingly Toxic Water" with "ingredients" guaranteed to "make you sick" to dramatize Greenpeace's message.

Greenpeace claimed to have discovered "alarming" levels of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and tetrachloroethene (TCE) in the Cepza samples.

These are substances that are potentially carcinogenic and can adversely affect the nervous system, liver and kidneys, it said. The contaminated water may also irritate the skin, eyes and mucous membranes, it said.


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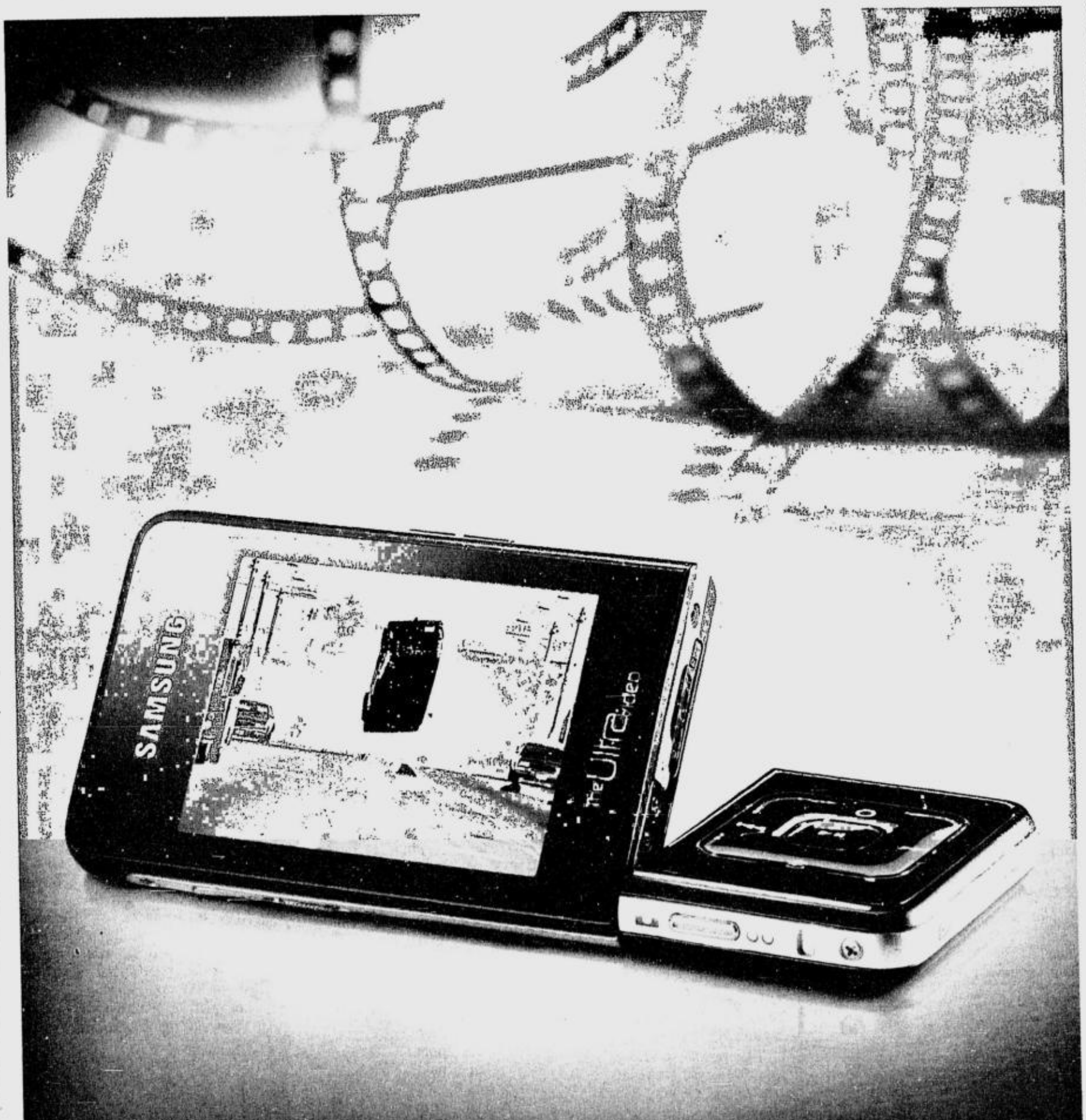


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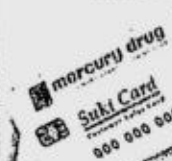

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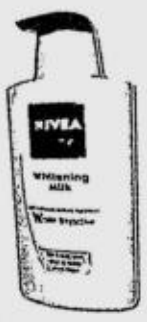

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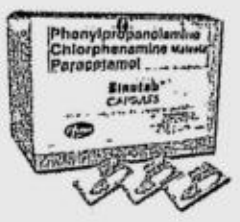

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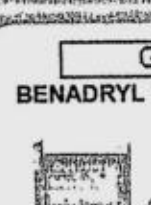

120ML REG.PRICE: P144.50 PAY ONLY P137.25
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Adverse Reaction: None

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# Big business seeks probe of 'cash gift'

From page A1

MBC executive director Alberto Lim said President Macapagal-Arroyo should form an independent commission to conduct the inquiry in order to clear herself of involvement in the cash handouts.

"We initially thought the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission should make the investigation, but PAGC reports directly to the Executive Secretary, so there is no assurance of impartiality," Lim said in a phone interview.

He was referring to a statement he made in a Thursday TV interview, where he suggested that the PAGC should act on the matter.

"What we suggest now is an independent body, preferably headed by someone like Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban," Lim said.

Lim also said the investigation should determine where the money had come from, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council should be involved.

"The source of the money should be traced," he said. "If it is from public funds, a crime has been committed, and those behind it should be prosecuted."

In a separate interview, PCCI chair Donald Dee said any inquiry should result in a "definite determination" rather than endless questioning that led nowhere.

"If lawmakers should investigate [the cash handouts], they are better off focusing on their jobs," Dee said.

He added: "Any [inquiry] should reach a conclusion and not be a tool of political grandstanding. We are already in such a confused situation. *Magulo na tayo.*"

## Bank of Commerce

In the City of San Fernando, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio said the P500,000 he received on Oct. 11 could have been withdrawn from Bank of Commerce because the paper binders on the five bundles amounting to P100,000 each bore its name. ***(See related story on this Page A17.)***

Panlilio said he had yet to inquire from the bank who could be the depositor in the account from which the money was withdrawn.

He declined the request of the INQUIRER to check the serial numbers on the P1,000-bills, saying the money was now in the "proper safekeeping" of the provincial capitol.

The governor said this was how far he had gone in trying to determine the source of the money as he awaited the Palace's reply to his Oct. 16 letter.

In the letter, he had said he needed to know the source of the money so the provincial capitol could issue an acknowledgment receipt for it.

Malacañang, through clerk Rosabeth Tayo, received the letter in the afternoon of Oct. 16. There has been no reply, Panlilio said.

He said that since he confirmed to the INQUIRER on Oct. 13 the distribution of the money in Malacañang, neither the President nor her representative had gotten in touch with him.

Asked if there had been any phone call from Ms Arroyo, his province mate, the governor said in Kapampangan: "Who am I to be called by the President herself?"

Panlilio stressed that he was "not being impatient."

But he added: "If Malacañang does not confirm the exact source of the money, I will most likely believe it is bribe money."

He invoked the 15-day reply period specified in Republic Act No. 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Offices and Employees.

## 2 reasons

Panlilio had earlier said the money, contained in a paper bag, was handed by Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza to his chief of staff Archie Reyes on Malacañang grounds shortly after the meeting between Ms Arroyo and local officials.

Yesterday, he said he believed that the money came from Malacañang for two reasons: First, prior to the meeting, the governors had received word that they would get "help" for the barangay elections, and second, the "female Palace staff" who had handed the bags meant for himself and Mendoza said the money could be used for "barangay projects."

A Roman Catholic priest who was elected governor by Pampanga folk who had had enough of candidates linked to "jueteng" and quarry corruption scandals, Panlilio said he had initially balked at the idea of getting financial help for the barangay elections because this would violate the principle of nonpartisanship.

He said he and Mendoza accepted the money after being told that they could use it for "barangay projects," about which requests had piled up and for which resources were lacking.

## Open mind

Panlilio said that until yesterday, "I continue to have an open mind about the exact source of the money."

"My judgment will depend on the truth that will surface. What I have done so far is tell the truth that I received this money, that I believe it is from public funds, that I intend to use it to answer the people's needs and properly account for it. When strong proof shows it is a bribe and I get no reply [from the Palace] in 15 days, I will return it," he said.

Panlilio welcomed the idea of an investigation by the Senate of the cash handouts.

"I think I have to rest. I'm overworked, over-interviewed [by the media]. I have to evaluate [what has happened]," he said, adding:

"I haven't regretted what I did. I'm out to seek the truth."

Bank of Commerce is not a government depository bank.

According to the Department of Finance, the depository banks of the national or local governments should be Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, both government banking institutions.

Bulacan Governor Mendoza said the paper binders of the money he had received did not have markings of Bank of Commerce.

He said a date was handwritten on the paper binders but he could not recall if it was July 20 or 22.

He added that the money had been deposited in the provincial capitol's trust fund.

Mendoza said he had not been harassed by the Palace since he confirmed Panlilio's revelations.

But he said the statements of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno on the matter sounded like "pressures."

"[He seemed to be saying] that [Panlilio] and I were the ones who did something bad," Mendoza said.

## Ombudsman

In Davao City, where she was on a brief visit yesterday, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said there would be no sacred cows in the investigation being conducted by her office on the cash handouts.

Gutierrez told the INQUIRER that the inquiry would involve those present at the Oct. 11 meeting, including Ms Arroyo herself.

She also denied rumors that her office had been pressured into conducting the inquiry: "We in the Office of the Ombudsman have always been telling everyone that we remain independent."

She added that she immediately ordered the probe "the moment" she heard it in the news.

In Tagbilaran City, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado called on lawmakers and his fellow governors who claimed to have received cash handouts from Malacañang to return the money and name the persons who handed it to them.

"If they think it's bribe money, they should return it," Aumentado said yesterday in his weekly radio program.

He also denied having known of the cash handouts and said: "If I were given money, I would have returned it."

***With reports from Kit Bagaipo, Inquirer Visayas; and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao***

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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

**A.M. No. 07-9-12-SC**
**THE RULE ON THE WRIT OF AMPARO**
**RESOLUTION**

Pursuant to the action of the Court en banc in its session held on October 16, 2007, Sections 9 and 11 of the Rule on the Writ of Amparo are hereby AMENDED to read as follow:

Sec. 9. Return; Contents. — Within FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS after service of the writ, the respondent shall file a verified written return together with supporting affidavits which shall, among other things, contain the following:

(a) The lawful defenses to show that the respondent did not violate or threaten with violation the right to life, liberty and security of the aggrieved party, through any act or omission;
(b) The steps or actions taken by the respondent to determine the fate or whereabouts of the aggrieved party and the person or persons responsible for the threat, act or omission;
(c) All relevant information in the possession of the respondent pertaining to the threat, act or omission against the aggrieved party; and
(d) If the respondent is a public official or employee, the return shall further state the actions that have been or will still be taken:
  (i) to verify the identity of the aggrieved party;
  (ii) to recover and preserve evidence related to the death or disappearance of the person identified in the petition which may aid in the prosecution of the person or persons responsible;
  (iii) to identify witnesses and obtain statements from them concerning the death or disappearance;
  (iv) to determine the cause, manner, location and time of death or disappearance as well as any pattern or practice that may have brought about the death or disappearance;
  (v) to identify and apprehend the person or persons involved in the death or disappearance; and
  (vi) to bring the suspected offenders before a competent court.

**THE PERIOD TO FILE A RETURN CANNOT BE EXTENDED EXCEPT ON HIGHLY MERITORIOUS GROUND.**

The return shall also state other matters relevant to the investigation, its resolution and the prosecution of the case.

A general denial of the allegations in the petition shall not be allowed.

*Sec. 11. Prohibited Pleadings and Motions.* – The following pleadings and motions are prohibited:

(a) Motion to dismiss;
(b) Motion for extension of time to file opposition, affidavit, position paper and other pleadings;
(c) Dilatory motion for postponement;
(d) Motion for a bill of particulars;
(e) Counterclaim or cross-claim;
(f) Third-party complaint;
(g) Reply;
(h) Motion to declare respondent in default;
(i) Intervention;
(j) Memorandum;
(k) Motion for reconsideration of interlocutory orders or interim relief orders; and
(l) Petition for *certiorari*, *mandamus* or prohibition against any interlocutory order.

The amendments to the Rule shall take effect on October 24, 2007 following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

October 16, 2007.

REYNATO S. PUNO
Chief Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
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Associate Justice

RUBEN T. REYES
Associate Justice

(PDI – October 20, 2007)

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# US oil hits $90; no rise in local pump ...

From page A1

government of the new rules on its tariff reduction scheme.

Analysts said global investors were being drawn to energy futures as a hedge against the weakening US dollar. That, plus worries over tensions between Turkey and Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, has lifted crude oil prices to new records for five straight days.

Light, sweet crude for November delivery rose to US$90.02 a barrel in Thursday evening electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex). By midmorning Friday in Singapore, however, the contract retreated to US$89.54 a barrel.

"Analysts say prices will go down next week, so we're just watching the market closely," said Glenn Yu, chair of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association.

"We're still waiting for the (Department of Finance) to make its final decision on the tariff reduction scheme," Yu added.

To cushion the impact of high crude prices on Filipino consumers, the government has come up with a program in which the tariff on imported crude and oil products are reduced to as much as 1 percent depending on how much regional prices go up.

## Weak US dollar

The program implemented last year, however, was based on an exchange rate of P50 to the US dollar. Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the "trigger points" were being reviewed and that the finance department would issue the new rules as soon as possible.

While oil prices have risen sharply in recent days, the weak US dollar is seen as somewhat moderating the impact of high oil prices in other currencies. The greenback fell to a new low against the euro on Thursday and also sagged against the yen.

Analysts said investors were also buying more oil to hedge further losses in the US currency.

"The main way the weak US dollar is actually relevant to oil and possibly other commodities such as gold, is that you may have seen some investment in those commodities as a hedge against US dollar weakness and that has pushed up their prices," said David Moore, commodity strategist at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney.

According to data released in recent weeks, speculative buying of oil futures is on the rise.

Many analysts, however, feel the underlying fundamentals of supply and demand do not support oil prices of US$90 a barrel.

"While oil markets are tight, there is a question as to whether the current price is sustainable," Moore said.

In Thursday's Nymex floor session, the November contract rose US$2.07 to a record close of US$89.47 a barrel.

On Wednesday, the US Department of Energy reported that oil and gasoline supplies rose more than expected last week, countering suggestions that supplies are tight. However, crude supplies at the closely watched Nymex delivery point of Cushing, Oklahoma, fell last week. And several reports in recent days have predicted oil supplies will tighten in the fourth quarter.

Thursday was the fifth day in a row crude prices have set new records. The new record has taken the price of oil nearer, but still below, inflation-adjusted highs hit in early 1980. Depending on the adjustment, a US$38 barrel of oil in 1980 would be worth US$96 to US$101 or more today.

In London, December Brent crude rose US$1.47 to settle at US$84.60 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. December Brent has now fallen back 12 cents in Asian hours.

***Reports by AP and Abigail L. Ho***

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Bid forms may be obtained from the FNRI-Bids and Awards - Secretariat, Property Section FNRI Bldg. DOST Cpd., Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during office hours starting November 6, 2007.

Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers for the pre-bid conference.

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G. Perlas / Mr. Hilarion D. Sanchez, Jr. at telephone no. 837-61-49.

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(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.**
Chairman, FNRI-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—Oct. 20 & 21, 2007)

# Bhutto welcome parade attacked; 138 dead

From page A1

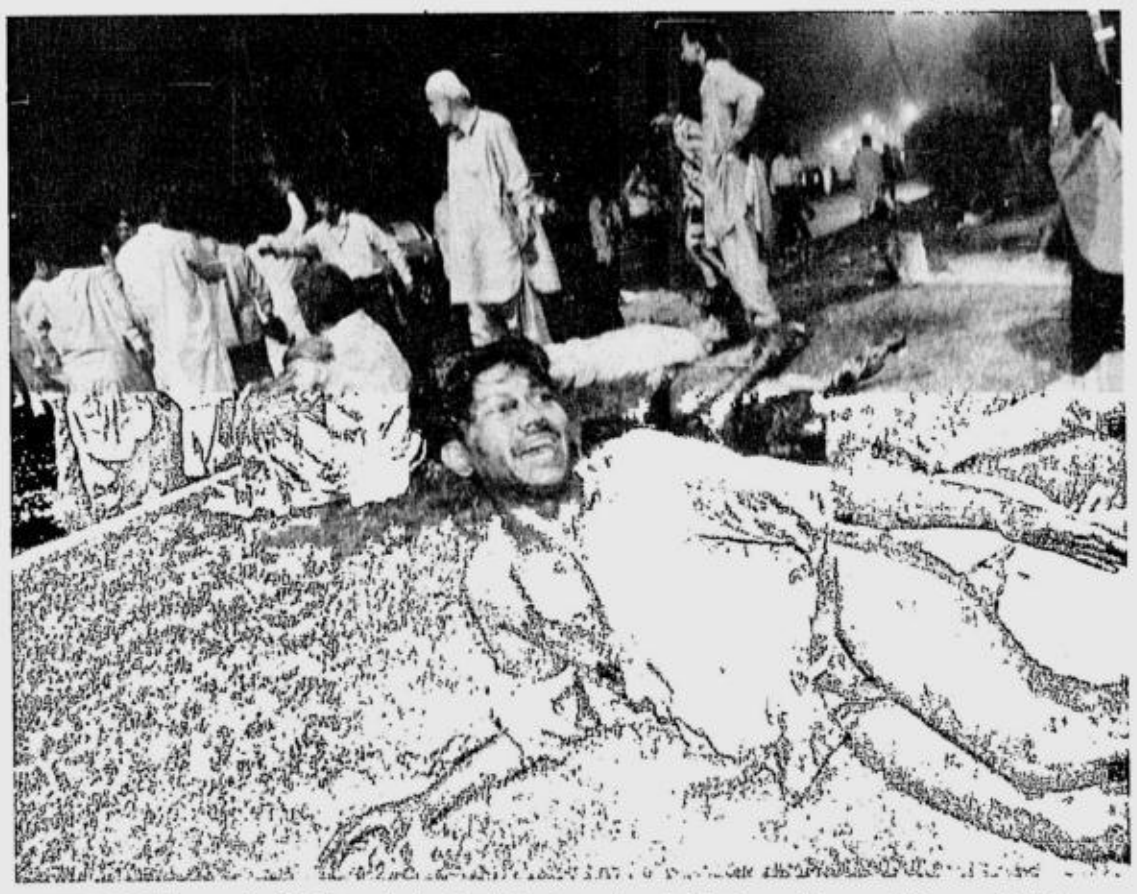
hospitals in Pakistan's biggest city struggled to keep pace after the attack, which occurred late Thursday.

The Pakistan People's Party vowed Bhutto would fight general elections in January, seen as a key step to returning the nuclear-armed nation of some 160 million people to civilian rule.

"She will stay in Pakistan, she will not leave, she is determined," Safdar Abbasi, a senator from Bhutto's party, told Agence France Presse (AFP) at Bhutto's residence, Bilawal House, in Karachi.

Angry Bhutto supporters burned tires and hurled stones at police in several parts of the city on Friday, witnesses said.

The attack came hours after Bhutto had flown in from Dubai, sobbing as she set foot on Pakistani soil for the first time since 1999, having shrugged off warnings that al-Qaida and Taliban militants would try to kill her.



A SERIOUSLY wounded Pakistani cries for help after a bomb blast near the car of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Karachi on Thursday night. AFP

## Walking through abattoir

"It was like walking through an abattoir," an AFP photographer who had been following the parade said. "Some people were lying around intact, others were completely dismembered."

Hospital officials said nearly 400 people were injured.

"It was an act of terrorism targeting Benazir Bhutto and aimed at sabotaging the democratic process," Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao said.

Sherpao did not say who might be responsible, while Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari alleged a Pakistani intelligence agency was behind the attack.

The explosion damaged the specially fortified campaign bus decked out with portraits of the ex-prime minister and her father which Bhutto had been driven on through the crowds for more than eight hours.

Interior ministry spokesperson Javed Cheema said that a grenade was thrown into the crowd seconds before the suicide attacker blew himself up, confirming an earlier police account.

"The impact was so high because the bomber used things like pellets and nails, which always have a splintering effect," Cheema added.

Police said the bomber's severed head was found at the scene and would be DNA-tested.

## Bhutto-Musharaff deal

Bhutto returned from self-imposed exile after Musharraf—the head of the military as well as president—dropped corruption charges against her in the hope her popularity could shore up his grip on power.

Bhutto had mostly worked out a power-sharing deal with Musharaff, but his reelection as president earlier this month is being challenged in the courts as is the amnesty deal.

Musharraf condemned the attack in the "strongest possible terms." He said those responsible would get "exemplary punishment" and appealed for calm.

Karachi policeman Falak Ahmad said the blasts were only around five meters from Bhutto's truck. "Minutes before, she had gone inside," he said.

Dazed Bhutto supporters stumbled along the road, searching for relatives or helping bloodied survivors into vans to be rushed to hospital.

Bhutto had earlier insisted she was unconcerned about threats in revenge for her vow to crack down on Muslim extremists.

"We are still fighting a dictatorship," Bhutto—the first woman ever to lead an Islamic nation—said upon her arrival. "We want to isolate extremists and build a better Pakistan."

Her brother was shot dead in Karachi in 1996, and her father was hanged in 1979 by military dictator Zia-ul-Haq.

## Global outrage

The United States, which sees Pakistan as a key ally in its "war on terror," led the global outrage.

"The United States condemns the violent attack in Pakistan and mourns the loss of innocent life there," White House national security spokesperson Gordon Johndroe said.

"Extremists will not be allowed to stop Pakistanis from selecting their representatives through an open and democratic process," Johndroe added.

Washington has quietly supported moves toward a deal between Musharraf and Bhutto, seeing an alliance as a way to boost Islamic moderates and step up the fight against Taliban and al-Qaida militants.

Australia said the attack bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the European Union presidency also denounced the bombing.

China took a similar stance. "China sternly condemns the explosion. We hope Pakistan will maintain social stability," the official Xinhua news agency quoted foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao as saying.

India, which routinely accuses Pakistan of fomenting an Islamic insurgency in disputed Kashmir, added its condemnation.

"The specter of terrorism confronting our region requires strong and determined action by all our governments," said Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna. .

"It is reprehensible that senior political figures are targeted in this way with such loss of innocent life," he added. *AFP*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# Corals make love in the ...

From page A1

reef madness as corals release sperm and eggs into the water for a few nights after a full moon.

But how do they know?

Researchers led by Oren Levy of the Center for Marine Studies at the University of Queensland, Australia, studied corals on Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

In Friday's issue of the journal Science the researchers reported that while corals did not have eyes, they were able to sense changes in light—especially blue light—and responded to them.

The corals contain ancient proteins called cryptochromes which react to light. Cryptochromes have also been found in mammals and insects where they effect the circadian clock that regulates the daily rhythms of life.

## Blue light

This finding indicates that the basic means used by mammals today to regulate daily patterns was in use at the beginnings of multicellular animals, according to the researchers.

And, they added, it supports the idea that these proteins evolved under the blue light of the ancient seas.

The cryptochromes genes occur in corals, insects, fish and mammals—including humans—and are primitive light-sensing pigment mechanisms which predate the evolution of eyes.

## Look, no eyes

The Cry2 gene, stimulated by the faint blue light of the full moon, appears to play a central role in triggering the mass synchronized coral spawning.

"This is the key to one of the central mysteries of coral reefs," said Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, head of the University of Queensland laboratory which discovered the genes.

"We have always wondered how corals without eyes can detect moonlight and get the precise hour of the right couple of days each year to spawn," Hoegh-Guldberg said in a statement.

The annual mass spawning of corals occurs across a third of a million square kilometers of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, shortly after a full moon.

Exposing corals to different colors and intensities of light and sampling live corals on reefs around the time of the full moon, Israeli researcher Levy found the Cry2 gene at its most active in Acropora corals during full moon nights.

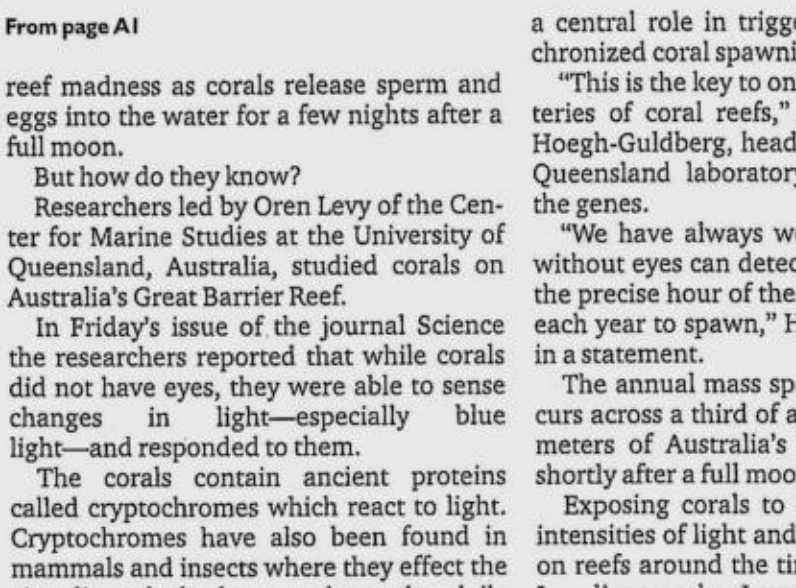
## Body clocks

The genes developed in primitive life forms in the Precambrian, more than 500 million years ago, as a way of sensing light to synchronize their body clocks and breeding cycles, said the researchers.

"They are, in a sense, the functional forerunners of eyes," Hoegh-Guldberg said.

Cryptochromes still tune humans to the rhythms of the planet, he said, but had lost their light-sensing function.

"They play important roles in regulating the body-clocks of many species, from corals to fruit flies, to zebra fish and mice," said David Miller from Australia's James Cook University. *Reports from AP and Reuters*



CORALS can be seen spawning at night during a full moon at the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast of Australia in this undated photo released on Friday. REUTERS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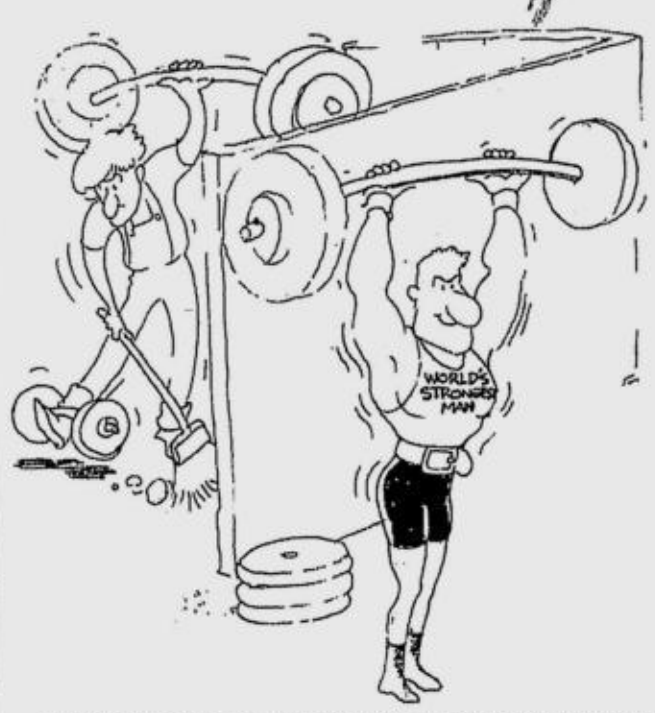

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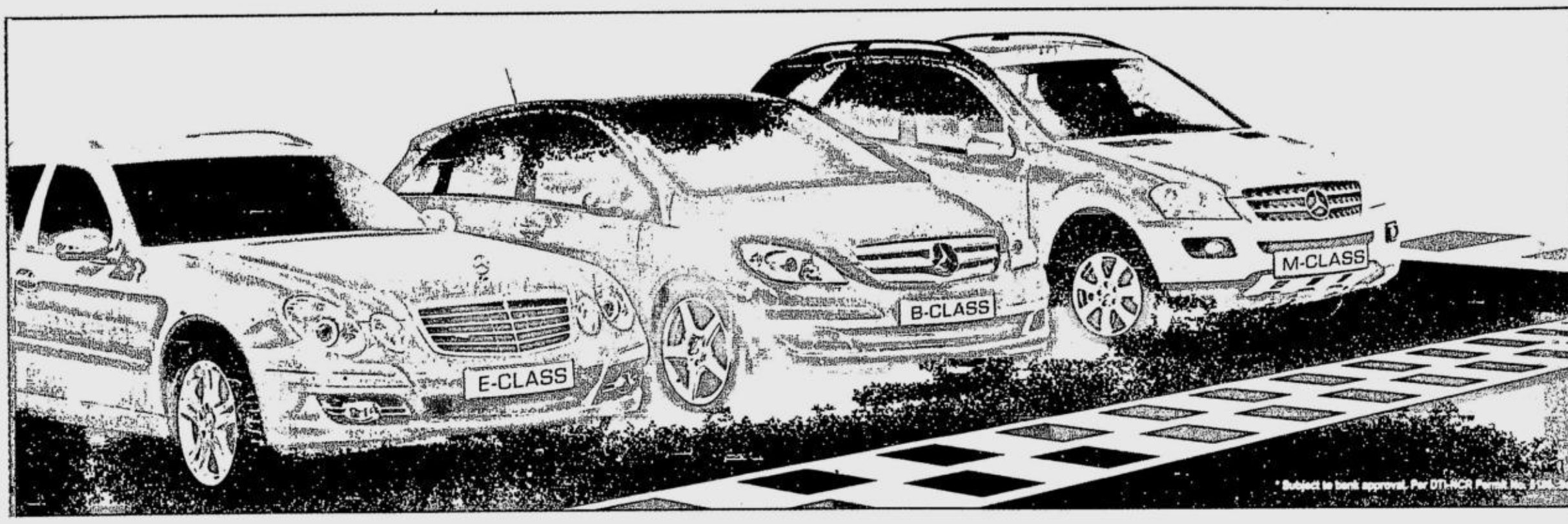


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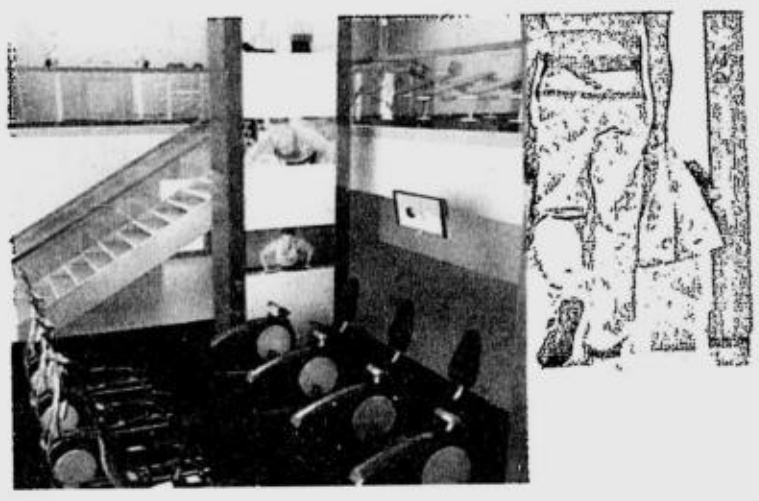

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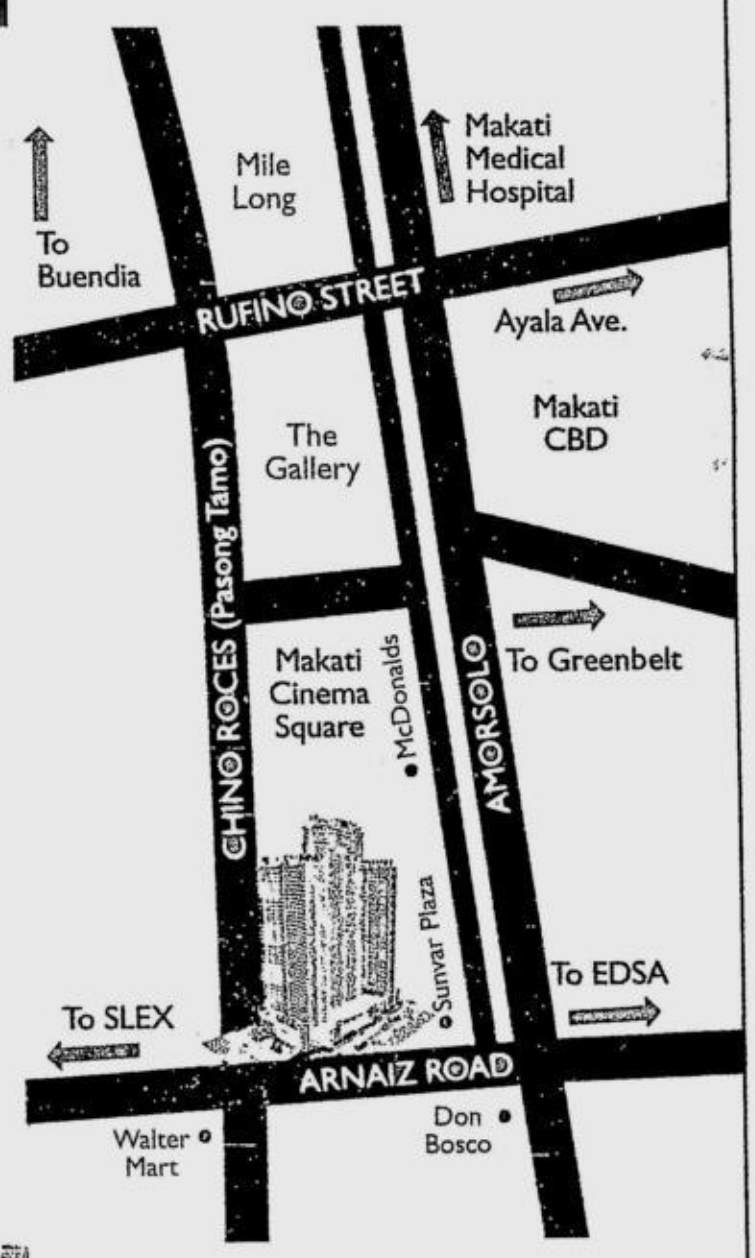

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# OPINION

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## Madness

IT WOULD SEEM THAT MADNESS REIGNS IN THE highest councils of government. From the unraveling of the National Broadband Network project to its (still developing) aftermath, the nation has been treated to the incredible spectacle of the country's highest officials stumbling from one dumb decision to another disastrous mistake, compounding the overpricing of a contract with a series of bribe attempts, sometimes to persons who were most unlikely to just quietly pocket the payoffs.

**EDITORIAL**

The madness began when some smart operators in the Arroyo administration thought they could hoodwink the Filipino people into accepting a contract to build the NBN at a cost of $329 million, double its actual cost by some estimates, although the same project could have been built at no cost to the government.

To get Romulo Neri, then director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, to drop his objection to having the project built with a loan from the Chinese government, instead of a build-operate-transfer scheme as President Macapagal-Arroyo had originally insisted, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos allegedly offered to give him P200 million. (Abalos was said to be the broker between the government and the Chinese company, ZTE Corp.) And to make businessman Jose de Venecia III give up his own bid to bag the project, Abalos allegedly offered him $10 million. If those mind-boggling sums look unreasonably high to many people, it is probably because, in the past, bribes of such magnitudes were reserved for presidents.

Just as crazy (or was it?) was Malacañang's response to the invitation extended by the Senate for Neri to testify. It gave him the green light to implicate Abalos but stopped him from revealing what the President did after he disclosed to her the bribe offer. But while Neri's disclosure to the Senate put Abalos in deeper trouble, Neri's silence about the President only made her look complicit as far as the ZTE deal was concerned and derelict in her duty to enforce the law.

As soon as talk started about impeaching the President, her allies and subalterns moved swiftly to vaccinate her with a weak complaint. But where they sought to introduce method, only madness surfaced. For who but a fool or a desperate soul would seek out Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, an outspoken if not a bitter critic of the administration, to dangle P2 million in exchange for his endorsement of the flawed impeachment complaint? But that was exactly what the second highest official of the President's own party Kampi did.

And who but the most cynical or stupid of political operatives would not think twice before distributing cash, ranging from P200,000 to P500,000, to more than 200 congressmen, governors and mayors inside Malacañang? Considering the big number of officials gathered there that day, that was an open invitation to be exposed publicly. And they pushed their luck some more by including on the list of recipients the likes of Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio, a priest who ran on an anti-corruption platform.

Trying to extricate the Palace from the payoff scandal, Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno first claimed that the money must have come from an association of local officials, which the group immediately denied. Next, he said it came from Speaker Jose de Venecia, prompting the latter to complain that "*para tayong ginagago,*" meaning Puno was trying to make a fool of everyone.

But it is not just Puno doing that. Taking everyone for a fool has been the underlying assumption of Malacañang's strategy in responding to the NBN mess. And its latest move is no different: it ordered the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to investigate the cash gift-giving inside the Palace.

When it was last heard from, the PAGC declared that it couldn't find any evidence to support Neri's bribery charge against Abalos. It was able to reach that conclusion after a "quiet investigation" where neither the accused nor the accuser was asked about the incident. Only a national leadership that believes that Filipinos are incapable of rational thought would think they would find any PAGC findings credible, including one that would say Panlilio and the congressmen who confessed planted the money in those envelopes or bags.

The old saying could be true: Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad. With so much madness sprouting all over Malacañang, it looks as if the gods have been busy planting the seeds of its destruction.

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## A wedding among the ruins

**PUBLIC LIVES**

*Randy David*

CUSCO. I AM IN PERU AND I'M WRITING from Cusco, possibly the highest city in the world at 12,000 feet above sea level. Resting on a basin completely surrounded by the Andes mountains, Cusco is the "navel" of the ancient Inca world known as Tawantinsuyo. A fusion of old dreams and young aspirations has brought me and my wife to this enchanted city at this particular time.

Foreigners visit these parts mainly to see the magical ruins of Machu Picchu, a wonder of architectural and engineering ingenuity. Karina and I have come here primarily to witness the union in marriage of our son CP to Ani, the bright and lovely daughter of Virgilio and Lynn Almario. The wedding party is small and private. It will consist of the bride and the groom, the two sets of parents, one of the *ninangs*—Karina Bolasco, who has traveled alone all the way from Manila to join us, and the officiating priest, Filipino missionary Fr. Allen Aganon, who has lived here for over three years now, ministering to the religious needs of Quechua Indians in a remote village outside Cusco. The wedding will be held in the evening at the Jesuits' La Compania Church.

It was the couple's extraordinary request to have their civil wedding affirmed and solemnized in Catholic rites here in Cusco, a place that is so spectacularly out of the way that it is doubtful whether any Filipino couple has ever thought of it as a venue for a wedding. Why Cusco? That is a question both sets of parents have been asked repeatedly by friends and relatives alike. I'm afraid there is no easy answer. The couple's quick answer is, why not Cusco? I've heard of this place before, but not, of course, in the context of a wedding.

In 1952, when he was 21 years old and barely out of medical school, Ernesto "Che" Guevara and his friend Alberto Granado reached Cusco, after traveling for three months across the Andes cordillera, partly on a Norton 500cc motorcycle but mostly by hitch-hiking. These young Argentinians had run out of money by the time they entered Cusco. Subsisting entirely on the generosity of people they met, they managed to stay in the city for almost two weeks, using it as a base from which to explore Machu Picchu and the nearby ruins along the stretch of the winding Urubamba river.

This entire region today serves as a magnet for thousands of young backpackers from all over the world who have embarked on their own personal pilgrimages. I can only suppose that if you're young and you have read "The Motorcycle Diaries" of Latin America's most famous rebel, you cannot not include Cusco in your wish-list of destinations. One could sense from reading Che's diaries that this is where the seeds of his permanent campaign for a free Latin American continent were first sown.

"The impalpable dust of other ages covers its streets, rising in clouds like a muddy lake when you disturb the bottom." Cusco evoked in the young Che lyrical reflections like these. Visiting its magnificent churches and stunning ruins, he was completely overwhelmed by the traces that the Quechua, a previously nomadic tribe led by Inca rulers, left behind. At once, he became conscious of the pillage and degradation that this proud indigenous people bore under the Spanish conquerors.

Successive earthquakes have visited this city in the recent past, bringing down the proud domes that capped the conqueror's majestic churches. In contrast, the Inca walls on which they had stood remained unshaken. There is surely a lesson to be learned here, Che muses, but it must not be exaggerated. "The grey stones have grown weary imploring their gods to destroy the hated race of conquerors, and now they show no more than the fatigue of inanimate objects, fit only for the admiring cries of some tourist or other .... The six-meter walls of the Palace of Inca Roca, which the conquistadores used as foundations for their colonial palaces, reflect in their perfect form the lament of the defeated warrior."

Cusco evoked many clashing sentiments in the heart of Che Guevara, but I am certain none of these included Cusco as a romantic setting for a Filipino wedding. Yet anyone who comes to this city cannot fail to be impressed by the long-term vision that must have inspired the Inca rulers when they set out to spread their empire from North to South of the whole American continent. In just 200 years, the Incas built a state that would easily surpass any of the West's modern states in grandeur and achievement.

It is amazing to watch today's Cusco being crisscrossed by swarms of modern backpackers. Young couples like CP and Ani undoubtedly draw much inspiration from this ancient monument to human imagination as they begin to forge their own future together. This is after all where every pilgrimage to Machu Picchu begins. Most young visitors take the Inca trail on a 4-5 day journey on foot, reaching the site of the Inca's most ancient monument just before daybreak of the last day. Resting their backs on ancient stones, they await the rising of the sun from behind the sharp peaks of the surrounding mountains, exactly in the manner the Inca told the time and mastered its rhythms. Historians say Machu Picchu was where the Quechua people first settled; it also became their final refuge.

* * *

*Comments to public.lives@gmail.com*

## Under Jpepa, no export of hazardous wastes to RP

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

WILL SIGNING THE JPEPA GIVE JAPAN CARTE blanche to export its toxic and other hazardous wastes to the Philippines? No. The fact that with Jpepa the Philippines imposes zero tariffs on wastes from Japan (and vice versa) is immaterial, because Philippine laws and regulations—in particular RA 6969 ( "An Act to Control Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes, Providing Penalties for Violations thereof..."—prohibits such importation, and so does the Basel Convention, or the Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

But to dispel any lingering doubts, there was an Exchange of Notes between Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo and Japan Foreign Minister Taro Aso that said precisely that. Last May 22, Romulo sent Aso a note to confirm the understanding that "Japan would not be exporting toxic wastes to the Philippines, as defined under the laws of the Philippines and Japan, in accordance with the Basel Convention ... and that provisions related to this topic in the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement do not prevent the adoption or enforcement of such measures under existing and future national laws, rules and regulations of the Philippines and Japan. It would be opportune receiving confirmation from your side to put to rest the concerns raised on this subject in the Jpepa...."

To which Aso replied (on May 27): "I am pleased to confirm the statement and commitment of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that Japan would not be exporting toxic wastes to the Philippines, as defined and prohibited under the laws of the Philippines and Japan, in accordance with the Basel Convention, and the understanding that provisions related to this topic in the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement do not prevent the adoption or enforcement of such measures under existing and future national laws, rules and regulations of the Philippines and Japan."

How much clearer can one get?

And apparently, such an Exchange of Notes as quoted in part above, constitutes "agreement" under international law—it is deemed to be a supplemental agreement between the parties regarding their interpretation of the Jpepa and the application of its provisions vis-à-vis the Basel Convention and present and future environmental laws and regulations. Which can be taken to mean, one supposes, that there is no impediment to having other supplemental agreements regarding interpretations of other Jpepa provisions.

It is to be hoped that the foregoing will stop once and for all the use of an environmental threat to derail the Jpepa, or at least reassure those who have succumbed to the scare tactics.

But there are always going to be the hardcore doubting Thomases. In their case, maybe a concrete example—recounted by our Ambassador to Japan Dominador "Jun" Siazon Jr.—of how Japan takes its obligations in this regard seriously may do the trick, although, as they say, no one is more difficult to awaken than the person who is not really sleeping. Why Ambassador Siazon? Because the incident about to be narrated happened during his watch as foreign secretary (under Joseph Estrada).

The reader may recall that sometime in August 1999, 92 40-footer container vans arrived at the Manila Container Port aboard MV Ming Champion. The contents of the vans, weighing over 2,000 tons, were shipped by Nisso Corp. (based in Tochigi, Japan) and consigned to Shinsei Enterprises, Intramuros, Manila, with Macondray Carrier as cargo agent. Their contents were declared as waste papers and plastics for recycling.

But upon examination by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), the vans were found to contain instead substantial amounts of discarded intravenous (IV) syringes (used in blood-letting and dextrose), used adult diapers, sanitary napkins, hospital apparatus, garments, bandages, electronic equipment and PVC plastics. This, in contravention of both the Basel Convention and RA 6969.

Whereupon we threw the book at Japan, figuratively speaking, albeit after a four-month delay. Siazon, as foreign secretary, sent a formal notification to the Japanese ambassador to the Philippines, requesting Japan to take the necessary steps to ensure that the waste materials be taken back to Japan, also as specified by the Basel Convention. And Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles also wrote the secretariat of the Basel Convention in Geneva and the Japanese government, requesting remedial action from them.

The long and short of it is that Japan had the container vans and their waste contents shipped back to Japan. But that is not the end of it. After investigation by police from the Prefectures of Nagano and Tochigi, criminal charges were brought against Nisso Corp., its chair (Katsuhiro Mizuguchi) and president (Hiromi Itoh) for violation of **Japan's** (emphasis mine) waste processing and cleaning law, foreign exchange and foreign trade law, and customs law.

Apparently Mizuguchi fled Japan, but was extradited from Cambodia, and arrested upon his arrival in Tokyo in September 2000. He was sentenced to four years in jail, as was Itoh, who also had to pay a 5-million yen fine. In addition, Nisso Corp. was fined 15 million yen.

Does that sound like Japan is taking us lightly? But, alas, I haven't a clue as to what happened to the local importer and the cargo agent.

# GNP grew, but incomes fell

**SOCIAL CLIMATE**

*Mahar Mangahas*

THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT IS STEADILY going up, according to official statistics which are updated, and hence re-trumpeted, four times a year. The latest figure is for the Second Quarter of 2007.

But last week, also from official statistics, we learned that family income, which is surveyed only once every three years, was **lower** in 2006 than it was in 2003. Previous surveys of family income were in 1997, 1994, etc.

To be specific, the new Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) of 2006, done by the National Statistics Office, found that average annual income per family was only P144,000 in 2006, compared to P148,000 in the previous FIES of 2003, with both numbers based on the purchasing power of the peso in base year 2003. That's a real **decrease** of 2.7 percent, which is definitely bad news for the people in general. (In economic statistics, "real" means "corrected for inflation.")

On the other hand, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), per capita GNP rose from P14,366 in 2003 to P16,128 in 2006, also corrected for inflation (but using 1985 as base year for prices). That's a substantial real **growth** of 12.3 percent, which would be very good news if, and only if, family incomes also grew in step with it.

But now we know that family incomes have **not** been growing in step with the recent growth in GNP. Indeed, family incomes have recently been moving in the opposite direction! Thus the recent growth in GNP is **not** good news for people in general, no matter how loud are the voices in the government, in the business sector, or in the international development banks that proclaim that it is good news.

Let me repeat this extremely important fact: **according to official statistics, which I have no reason to dispute, real family incomes fell over 2003-2006.**

The next NSO survey of family income will not be until 2009, and the results will only be known in late 2010. If the family income trend from 2003 to 2006 is not heeded now, and the government imagines the economy is fine due to GNP growth, then nothing will be done to rescue family incomes for the remainder of this administration.

Let me also make it clear that, in criticizing the GNP, I am not denying that it has been growing. I accept the contemporaneous growth in GNP and decline in family income as factual results of the best efforts of the government statisticians. The growth in one and decline in the other are not contradictory.

At the same time, I do not suppose that either set of data is perfect. Surely both sets can be improved, in terms of estimation procedures. But until such improvements are made, one must make use of everything that is available. To accept one set of data as fact and deny the other set as falsehood would be foolish.

**Family income is the superior indicator.** Much depends on what one wants to use the statistics for. In order to assess if "the economy" is doing well or doing badly, it is quite clear that the concept of family income is superior to the concept of GNP. Income is the means of providing one's family with economic goods and services.

The FIES is the government's means of measuring income inequality. This has declined, according to the NSO report. The NSO's Gini coefficients of .460 in 2003 and .456 in 2006 are not much different. Call the richest 10 percent the top and the poorest 10 percent the bottom. In 2003 the average income in the top was 19.9 times the average income in the bottom, whereas in 2006 the average in the top was 19.3 times that in the bottom. The change from 19.9 to 19.3 is another sign of the slight decline in inequality.

The 2006 FIES is what the government will use to update its measure of poverty, when it gets around to setting a 2006 poverty line. The new NSO report did not include poverty because updating the poverty line, and then applying it to the FIES, is done by the NSCB, not the NSO.

* * *

NSO Release Number 2007-81, of Oct. 9, 2007, is entitled "Change in Spending Pattern Among Filipino Families Seen in 2006." It specifically points out that the share of home expenditures devoted to **food** by the bottom 30 percent of families rose from 48 percent in 2003 to 59 percent in 2006. See www.census.gov.ph/data/pressrelease/2007/ie06tx.html.

When incomes rise, the food share falls; this empirical principle is known as Engels' Law. The law works both ways: an increase in the food share is a clear sign that incomes fell.

* * *

**Relating income to production.** A production unit's contribution to GNP is the value it adds to the value of materials and services purchased from outside. Accounting-wise, this value-added is also the sum of payments for work (by labor and management) and returns to the property (land, capital goods, finance) of the company owners.

But companies do not immediately pay all the claims of the workers and, much more likely, all the claims of the owners. Undistributed business profits remain business income, and are not yet the income of capitalist families. What such families enjoy, charged to "business expenses," is very likely not reported as family income. Still, as long as such "leakages" are a constant proportion, growth in GNP and growth in family incomes would go hand in hand. But what if the leakages are a growing proportion? What if there is rapidly growing inequality in enjoying the fruits of GNP?

* * *

*Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.*

# Cyber Ed: an insult to intelligence and good sense

**COMMENTARY**

*Mario Taguiwalo*

THE CYBER EDUCATION PROJECT BEING SOLD to us by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus is an insult to intelligence and good sense. Let me explain why.

Based on information made available thus far, the Cyber Education Project would have the Department of Education set up and operate an in-house network of facilities to transmit and receive video, audio and data via satellite in support of instruction, teacher training and education administration in nearly all public elementary and high schools, in all divisions and regions of the country.

A contractor-supplier chosen by the government of China would implement it at pre-determined prices. The total project costs, estimated at P26.5 billion, would be financed by national government borrowings—86 percent, from the Chinese government. The remaining 14 percent, the Philippine government's counterpart, may as well be considered loan-financed since the Philippine budget remains in deficit. The project has been suspended for now but news reports indicate that the government is preparing to go ahead with it soon.

The P26.5-billion government loan would be a sound investment if this were to be used for priorities that would really enable Filipino children to learn better.

Are TV sets and computers, linked by satellite, the most important need in Philippine public schools today—for teachers to teach and for children to learn? The Cyber Education Project ignores many other priority needs of our public school teachers and students.

With an additional P26.5 billion in the DepEd budget over the next five years, more children, aged 4 to 5 years old, can attend good quality preschools so that they all enter Grade 1 more ready to learn; more schools can afford to organize smaller class sizes in Grade 1 to 3 so that teachers can better teach their pupils in the important early years; enrollment in our excellent science high schools can be doubled or tripled; more children losing interest in learning due to hunger or malnutrition can avail themselves of school feeding. Also, currently effective but small-scale teachers' training programs for English, Math and Science can be rapidly scaled up; and operating budgets of schools can be increased to adequately cover maintenance, operations and utilities costs. Likewise, the facilities at the 100-year-old Teachers Camp in Baguio, where hundreds and thousands of teachers attend training, can be modernized and upgraded.

The Cyber Education Project is not even the most cost-effective way to harness modern information and communications technologies for teaching and learning.

Local private sector efforts (such as Project GILAS and the Knowledge Channel) for transmitting video, audio and data to schools can be scaled up with public funds if found to be working. The "open universities" of the University of the Philippines and other higher education institutions can be engaged to offer and deliver training courses for public school teachers and principals.

Committing such large resources to just one technological approach untested in Philippine public schools seems unduly risky, given the uncertainties about the technology's future longevity, about the expected users' readiness or capability to use it, and its likely impact on teaching, learning and school operations.

The Cyber Education Project was prepared, negotiated and approved in secrecy and haste. The general public and the education community do not even have the complete information showing that the project is really necessary, carefully designed, and not attended by biases in the selection of its contractor and in the determination of its costs and prices.

Can video, audio and data beamed via satellite at our nation's classrooms single-handedly alter education outcomes for the better? It is an insult to the intelligence and good sense of many dedicated education reformers to suggest that a monolithic technological solution—a kind of magic gun shooting silver bullets at the minds of teachers and students—can change our education system from dismal to excellent, from largely failing to largely succeeding.

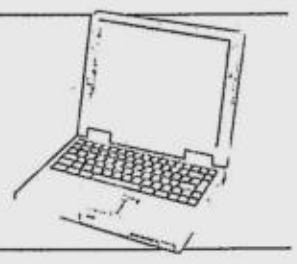
To suggest that TV sets and computers can fix this systemic failure betrays a fundamental ignorance of the social change that is required for sustained nationwide educational success.

The Cyber Education Project offers greater uniformity when we need greater diversity, greater standardization when we need greater customization, and greater central bureaucratic control when we need greater local community control.

Wasteful and careless public spending for the Cyber Education Project will mock the reform initiatives in basic education, which are prudently and carefully being worked out by DepEd bureaucrats and school staff, corporate foundations, bilateral donors and multilateral partners of the country. It is doubtful if basic education reform can progress significantly with the overhang of the waste, insensitivity, arrogance and poison that the Cyber Education Project could inflict.

*Mario Taguiwalo is a trustee of the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov) and serves as an expert advisor of the organization on political and education reform issues. He also served as undersecretary at the Department of Health from 1987-1990 and continues to serve as an expert consultant to various government agencies, including the Department of Education.*

# Agnes D and General Kwan



**BETWEEN DEADLINES**

A VER? LAGUNA REP. DAN FERNANDEZ SAID HE knew the administration hand who offered him a sum of money and who mentioned "in passing" millions of pesos in projects for his district—all in exchange for his signature on a self-evidently inferior impeachment complaint (reportedly designed to fail) against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pressed for comment if the man was Kampi deputy secretary general Francis Ver, the same person Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran identified as offering him a P2-million bribe in exchange for his endorsement of the complaint, Fernandez said he could not remember the name.

"I only know him by face," Fernandez said.

Did he really forget Ver's name or was he trying to protect the person's identity? The issue became moot after Ver himself said he talked about the possible endorsement of the impeachment raps with Beltran, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez (who also admitted being asked for his signature but denied being offered money in exchange) and Fernandez.

"*Matagal na kaming magkakilala niyan*," Ver said, referring to Fernandez.

"He's a friend from way back." *N. Bordadora*

* * *

**GENERAL KWAN. This ranking general is quite popular among the media because he's accessible and would give candid answers to questions about even the most delicate of issues—much to the chagrin, reportedly, of the Armed Forces chief of staff.**

**During interviews, this general's striking statements would often stick in the reporters' minds and provide them a new news angle.**

**But it must be said that the reporters always have to do some "cleaning up" of this general's statements. Why? Because his sentences are always peppered with that familiar yet meaningless filler, "kwan."**

**For example, answering a question about a military investigation, the general said: "To look into the *kwan*, the encounter with the objective of knowing the lessons learned and *makwan*. We will *kwan*, we will learn from our *kwan, isa 'yan kasi sa mga kwan ko e, mga programa ko* that we should always learn from our experiences." (Did you get that?)**

**Fortunately, the interviews are always recorded and transcribed word for word by some reporters. Those covering him also diligently ask follow-up questions to make sure that they get the general's statement right. Otherwise, they'd be filing stories like this: "General Kwan yesterday said the military had no *kwan* about the recent *kwan*."** *N. Dizon*

* * *

UNPOETIC JUSTICE. Agnes Devanadera is a busy woman, juggling two jobs at the Department of Justice (she is the acting secretary) and the Office of the Solicitor General (she is the country's Sol-Gen, and thus the government's chief lawyer).

In dividing her time between the two high-profile government offices, she has had to sacrifice the little pleasures she used to enjoy. For instance, she said during a luncheon with reporters Thursday, she has been unable to go to the dermatologist or go bargain shopping.

And even though the DOJ is right across from Robinson's Place in Manila, she has not found the time to go shopping, especially during sales.

"So near and yet so far," she said of the neighboring mall.

She revealed with a laugh that she likes to buy stuff during a sale because she feels like "*nakakaloko ako* [that is, put one over them]." She said that when she buys things at regular price, she feels she is the one being duped.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who recently underwent a kidney transplant, is still on leave. *L. Salaverria*

* * *

**OUT OF THE RING, INTO THE SHADE. Leave it to veteran journalists to always find the silver lining in the dark cloud.**

**Take boxing icon Manny Pacquiao's artful dodging of the traditional motorcade in Manila. In his past fights, Manila-beat reporters would be scurrying to cover: (a) the bout that will be shown live-via-satellite and for free in the city's gyms and (b) the welcome at City Hall and the motorcade around the city after a victory.**

**But after he demolished Mexican great Marco Antonio Barrera for the second time, the honor of receiving a triumphant Pacquiao went to Quezon City instead, where Pacquiao's "godfather," three-term Manila mayor and now Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, gave him the usual treatment. Pacquiao's handlers had turned down Mayor Alfredo Lim's offer to host him in Manila—thus, no Manny, no parade, no story.**

**A photographer who has covered Pacquiao's tiresome whole-day motorcades reassured a reporter: "*Ayaw mo nun, hindi ka na mabibilad sa araw?*"** *A. Lopez*

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the June 24, 1988 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

However hard Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim and Lt. Col. Robert Barbers pounce on Ermita bars, their anti-prostitution drive is bound to fail. For unless the other station commanders, especially in the Quiapo, Sta. Cruz and Sta. Mesa areas conduct the same raids on similar establishments in their areas, the Ermita drive would never attain its goal of eradicating prostitution in the city. We understand Lim had long ago ordered his station commanders to also conduct raids, but his orders remain unobeyed up to now.

# Social butterfly

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Niña Terol*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

"YOU HAVE <XXX> FRIENDS IN YOUR SOCIAL NETWORK."

These days, the number in this statement is (potentially) as important as your credit card limit, your account balance, or your official designation. In a day and age when "virtual" friends are as important as the "live" ones you have coffee with once a week, creating the appropriate online persona and cultivating a fruitful online social network become imperative. Gone are the days when colleagues and clients have no clue about our lives outside work and about how we spend our weekends. These days, everyone knows what everyone else does, eats, wears, loves and hates.

This often puts me in interesting predicaments: My online buddies sometimes know more about my everyday life than my best friends (my "soul sisters," who unfortunately have yet to be bitten by the social networking bug). My beloved—the subject of most of my rosy ramblings—meets acquaintances who are "fans" of my blog and who know details of our love life. Long-lost friends and high school classmates have become close connections not because of our after-work conversations but because of the virtual hugs, drinks, fortune cookies and notes we exchange online.

The upside is that, as a writer, I am given more avenues for creative expression and experimentation. I manage my numerous blogs as if they were magazines, with specific themes and formats. One is on the sweet details of life and romance. Another is about a girl's exploration and journey toward authenticity. Still another is about "soul work" and about the tools that help us gain a deeper understanding of our inner selves. I have an online portfolio of published pieces. And yet another is a "best of" blog. Whatever doesn't get published on paper gets posted online; it's perfect for the work that I do and the kind of readership I want to develop.

But this does have its downside. Just as in real relationships, these social networks take time and effort to cultivate. If you're serious about your online connections, you tend to spend more time in front of the PC doing "busywork" than you should. Instead of having coffee with friends or spending quality time with loved ones, you are kept busy "poking" someone on Facebook, posting photos and videos on Multiply or MySpace, or answering late-night surveys on Friendster. While it can be helpful if done moderately, it can be distracting (especially if your partner or the people closest to you are uninitiated).

Online social networking also comes with its own (self-imposed) restrictions. As a writer who makes a living on the thoughts and observations that make it to the printed page, I have no choice but to treat my online networks as an extension of my professional contacts. I have to be careful about everything I post on Multiply, Blogger, Facebook, Friendster, or i.ph, and I can't (fortunately or unfortunately) blog about anything that will put my artistic or professional integrity in question. No griping about this or that client, no spilling the beans about a subject before the article comes out in print, no pre-empting any special events or launches that have yet to be announced, no ranting that will make me seem like a mess, and definitely no grammatically incorrect posts! The friends who make up my social networks are potential readers and clients; therefore, everything that I put out there has to be consistent with who I am and what my work stands for.

The online revolution has done much for the World, and online social networking has likewise helped to boost my career. In the past few years that I have been a member of online networking sites, I have reconnected with many classmates and long-lost friends, tapped many prospective clients, developed a following for my kind of writing and honed my craft in a way that I wasn't able to do in the years before blogging. I have become more confident and more aware of my strengths, and I also have become more conscious of my social responsibility as a writer. Apparently, people find time to read what I write, so I had better make my posts worth reading!

In spite of all this, I feel that there's a crucial element that I'm missing out on sometimes: personal, face-to-face conversations. I often find myself in front of the computer for far too long stretches that my social life suffers. Sure, my online contacts know what I'm going through and what I'm thinking, but my partner is wondering why my moods swing the way they do sometimes. ("It's in my blog," I tell him.) I take it for granted that not everyone is online, and that personal relationships are (still) far more valuable than online ones.

So even if I enjoy being an online "social butterfly," don't be surprised when there isn't too much activity on my blogs. On those days, I am probably sipping a nice, warm cup of tea, enjoying great conversation with a good friend, in a place where hugs and drinks can be exchanged in person.

*Niña Terol, 27, is a writer, editor, communications consultant, lifestyle reporter and arts and culture enthusiast.*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:**

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

**THEY SAID**

## A peso myth

"The strong-peso-equals-a-strong-economy argument is only a myth... We only have to look at the export figures to know that while total export revenues are increasing, the fact is 80 percent of our exports are labor-intensive and has thus fallen victim to the appreciating peso."

*—Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters' Confederation*

## Moral reminder

"Let this be a constant reminder to the people elected or appointed to serve. The moral in this is "BE MORAL."

*—Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales' statement regarding Estrada's conviction*

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# Manila needs new adopted son

I AM NOT A RESIDENT OF MANIla, but I was shocked and and disappointed that the "People's Champ" chose one man, a politician at that, over millions of his fans in Manila.

I watched his arrival at the Naia, from his interview to his departure for Makati. It was disgusting to see Environment Secretary Lito Atienza put his arms around Pacquiao's shoulder. It did seem that Atienza had something to do with Pacquiao's not paying a courtesy call on the Manila mayor at the Manila City Hall—which he used to do when Atienza was still the mayor.

Since Pacquiao considers himself an adopted son of Atienza and not of Manila, it is about time Manila City Hall gave somebody else the title "adopted son."

**—MARIA GAVIDE,**
**mgavide@yahoo.com.ph**

# 'Pakapalan': What Abalos' resignation displayed

BARELY A DAY AFTER HE RESigned and was praised as someone whom public officials should emulate (his resignation was described as an act of *delicadeza*), former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos came out threatening to file criminal charges against Romulo Neri and Jose de Venecia III.

The lesson is clear: People should have held back their praises for Abalos; his resignation was not an act of *delicadeza*, much less was it an act of contrition, or an act of submission to the principle of accountability.

In fact, Abalos' resignation was far from admirable. On the contrary, it showed that the rule of *pakapalan* still reigns supreme in this Banana Republic.

*Pakapalan* connotes shamelessness and moral bankruptcy. It is a norm where might is right and right is wrong. It enables corrupt public officials to scoff at truth-seekers. It sustains a thoroughly messed-up moral order that allows crooks and charlatans in government to keep a veneer of respectability. Moreover, *pakapalan* enables these officials to flaunt their high crimes yet sound like they are innocent victims of detractors and destabilizers. In fact, they can even depict themselves as some sort of heroic figures.

*Pakapalan* is when a "President" says "I am sorry" and yet admits to no wrongdoing. It is when a commander in chief of a military establishment tagged as the culprit behind the forced disappearances of activists talks about protecting of human rights at the United Nations. It is when a "First Gentleman" declares, without batting an eyelash, that the phrase "back off" is not even in his vocabulary. Abalos, as an example, is therefore not unique.

The problem with *pakapalan* is that it insults the intelligence. It practically treats the Filipino people as cretins incapable of identifying criminals in public office.

**—LUKE ESPIRITU,**
**Philippine Union for Nationalist Liberation (Punyal),**
**nationalist22@gmail.com**

## LETTERS

# PVAO needs 'Claim Number'

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO VIRginia P. Tan's letter (INQUIRER, 9/24/07) inquiring about the unpaid pension benefit due her mother, whose name was not specified.

So that the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) can properly identify and adjudicate the benefit-claim, Tan must furnish us a photocopy of the PVAO application filed by her mother, bearing clearly the Claim Number for reference.

Anticipating Tan's immediate compliance with this requirement, we would like to assure her that the benefit-claim will be properly addressed with utmost dispatch.

**—MELINDA I. LUNA,**
**acting chief,**
**Old Age Pension Division,**
**Philippine Veterans Affairs Office,**
**Quezon City**

# Neda website was not hacked

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH the article published in the INQUIRER on Oct. 9 titled "Hackers attack Neda website."

We would like to clarify that that the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) website was not "hacked." The term "hacking" in the cyberworld means intentionally gaining unauthorized access to a computer system or breaking security to gain access to a system. It also involves modification of a program, often in an unauthorized manner, by changing the program code itself.

The Neda website's "Events" section was made accessible to the public for free posting; thus Neda officials and staff, as well as visitors or outside viewers, could directly post their announcements.

Given the above definition of hacking and the free posting feature of the "Events" section in the Neda website, what happened to our web portal could not be considered as a case of hacking but a form of vandalism or what is commonly known as "spam."

"Spam" is defined as an electronic junk mail, junk newsgroup postings, unsolicited e-mail, or generally e-mail advertising for some product sent to a mailing list or newsgroup. This can be done or generated by a person or machine.

The vandalism in the Neda web was an isolated case and not related to the issues surrounding the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

In any case, the Neda web administrator had, upon detection of the links posted in our "Events" section during the weekend, already removed them from the website. To assure that no such incidence would occur again, the direct posting feature has been disabled. All information/data/events/activities will now be subject to review prior to posting. Also, an end-user/visitor who wishes to post announcements will be provided with a verification code as an added security feature to ensure the legitimacy of the end-user and his/her data.

**—DANIEL R. PABELLON,**
**assistant director general,**
**National Economic and Development Authority (Neda),**
**Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

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3rd National Tournament of Club Champions Schedule

| DIVISION | MONDAY, 22 OCT QUALIFYING | TUESDAY, 23 OCT 1ST DAY MATCH PLAY | WEDNESDAY, 24 OCT 2ND DAY MATCH PLAY | THURSDAY, 25 OCT 3RD DAY MATCH PLAY | FRIDAY, 26 OCT FINAL DAY MATCH PLAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MEN'S | DYE COURSE | NORMAN COURSE | FALDO COURSE | DYE COURSE | FALDO COURSE |
| WOMEN'S | REST DAY | NORMAN COURSE | FALDO COURSE | DYE COURSE | FALDO COURSE |
| SENIOR'S | FALDO COURSE | DYE COURSE | REST DAY | NORMAN COURSE | FALDO COURSE |
| SPECIAL DIVISION MEN'S | DYE COURSE | REST DAY | REST DAY | FALDO COURSE | NORMAN COURSE |
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# Wanted Lintang Bedol can't be found

FILE photo of Bedol taken in one of his interviews with the INQUIRER.
INQUIRER PHOTO

COTABATO CITY—WHILE THE ORDER TO SEND to prison former Maguindanao Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol is underway, he appears to have disappeared again.

"I have not seen him (Bedol) in person since his last appearance in an *en banc* hearing of the Commission in Manila," Kasan Usi, Shariff Kabunsuan election supervisor, said.

## Bedol gone

A check with sources at the Maguindanao capitol in Shariff Aguak town, where the Comelec provincial office is located, bared that Bedol have not gone there in recent months.

Capitol employees said Bedol had stopped showing up at the capitol since he became embroiled in the mysterious disappearance of election returns and other poll documents kept inside the Comelec office there.

Bedol also made himself scarce here. He has a house in the city.

Acting Comelec Chair Resurreccion Borra announced that preparations are underway for Bedol's arrest and detention after the Supreme Court denied his petition for a temporary restraining order.

On Aug. 7, the election body, then chaired by resigned Commissioner Benjamin Abalos Sr., sentenced Bedol to six months imprisonment and imposed on him a P1,000 fine for indirect contempt when he defied the commissioners' repeated summons to appear and explain allegations of poll irregularities in Maguindanao.

## No order yet

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), told the INQUIRER on Friday that he has not received any order yet for the arrest of the former Maguindanao poll chief.

"I'm not aware (if there's any). I have not received any order to this effect," Goltiao said.

Bedol became controversial after election returns in his custody were reported missing.

When the returns were counted, they showed results in favor of administration candidates under Team Unity, leading to charges he took part in rigging the elections in favor of the candidates of President Macapagal-Arroyo. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

**BACKBREAKING** An elderly woman continues to work gathering sea shells along the seawall of Piapi Boulevard in Davao City, the only source of livelihood she has. She sells the seashells at markets in the city for the day's meal. It's a backbreaking job that keeps her at the seawall for hours.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

# Misuari aide, driver slain in Sulu town ambush

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A FORMER congressional candidate identified with jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari was killed—along with his driver—during an ambush by a still unidentified group in Indanan, Sulu yesterday morning, the police said.

Jainal Jamasali, Misuari's liaison officer, was in Barangay Buanza when ambushed shortly before 7 a.m., according to Senior Supt. Ajirum Ajirim, Sulu provincial director.

Ajirim said Jamasali, also the former interior secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), was walking with his driver, Wishar Oma, in Buanza when fired upon by the perpetrators.

"Both of them were killed and their bodies are now in our custody," Ajirim said.

He said the assailants used high-powered firearms.

Buanza is a known area of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Jamasali's group.

But in April, the military started its offensive against MNLF combatants in the area.

Ajirim said the police were still trying to determine his motive in going there.

Jamasali was the vice chair of the MNLF joint monitoring committee.

He was considered a peace maker.

Marine Corps commandant Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said he last talked with Jamasali at the Orchid Garden Hotel here on Thursday.

Dolorfino and Jamasali were very good friends and were among several persons held by MNLF forces under Ustadz Habier Malik in February this year.

Despite their ordeal, Dolorfino and Jamasali continued to work together to defuse the tension between the military and MNLF combatants in Sulu.

Ustadz Jain Jali, MNLF spiritual adviser in Sulu, said as grand uncle, he always reminded Jamasali to be careful.

"I already advised him to be careful at all time. Now we can't do anything but accept his fate," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Tribal office wants no exclusive research

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in the Cordillera said studies on the region's rituals, indigenous systems and medicinal plants are welcome but warned researchers against claiming exclusive ownership of their findings.

Lawyer Amador Batay-an, NCIP regional director, said the region's traditional practices and plants are considered part of the natural wealth that must be used for the welfare of indigenous communities.

"But researchers, although granted permission, could not declare their findings as their own and seek intellectual property rights protection," he said.

The NCIP reported here that there are 18 projects in the region whose proponents got NCIP certificates after getting consent from affected communities.

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act 8371) required the consent of communities for projects that involved the use, extraction and exploration of resources within indigenous communities.

**SOME MEMBERS** of ethnic groups draw attention through government-sponsored events, such as this parade in Barangay Mainit in Bontoc, Mountain Province. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Batay-an said of the 18 projects, four included researchers on indigenous systems and medicinal plants.

The projects, he said, are research on small mammals at Mt. Amuyao, Barlig, Mt. Province by the Field Museum of Natural History; research on medicinal plants in Kadaklan, Barlig, Mt. Province by the Mt. Province State Polytechnic College and the Social Action and Development Center; research on the "Galey," the ritual blankets of Benguet by the Mankayan municipal library, and research on the landscape and self-organizing system archeology of the Ifugao rice terraces by Stephen Acabado.

The agreements for the projects were signed this year between the proponents, NCIP and the indigenous cultural communities.

Under the agreement, the researchers were required to provide the NCIP and the indigenous peoples the results of their studies which must be validated first before they were made public. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

**NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)**

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

| Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/Citizenship | Position |
|---|---|---|
| BS POWERTEC PHILS., INC. Unit 3-D Classica 1, 112 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Youngho Jun Korean | Supervisor |
| BS POWERTEC PHILS., INC. Unit 3-D Classica 1, 112 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Sun Gil Yoo Korean | Asst. Manager |
| BS POWERTEC PHILS., INC. Unit 3-D Classica 1, 112 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Chong Hwan Lee Korean | President |
| BS POWERTEC PHILS., INC. Unit 3-D Classica 1, 112 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City | Jonghyoun Hong Korean | Manager |
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RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–October 20, 2007)

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E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
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# Workplace as comfort zone for PWDs

By Joey A. Gabieta
*Tacloban City*

THEY HAVE FOUND NOT ONLY work in the shop in San Jose District in Tacloban City but also their comfort zone.

'We are happy to be here. This is the only place where we feel comfortable and without the feeling of being discriminated by some of our people'

"We are happy to be here. This is the only place where we feel comfortable and without the feeling of being discriminated by some of our people," said Nelfa Ladan, who has been afflicted with polio since she was 2 years old.

"We feel just like any ordinary people when we are here."

More than 20 persons with disabilities (PWDs) assemble school chairs in the shop that is supervised by the city social welfare office. They varnish, paint and assemble wood slabs and are paid depending on the number of pieces they could finish.

Wodie Labutap, 29, another polio patient, said the workplace not only served as source of livelihood but also a comfort zone for PWDs.

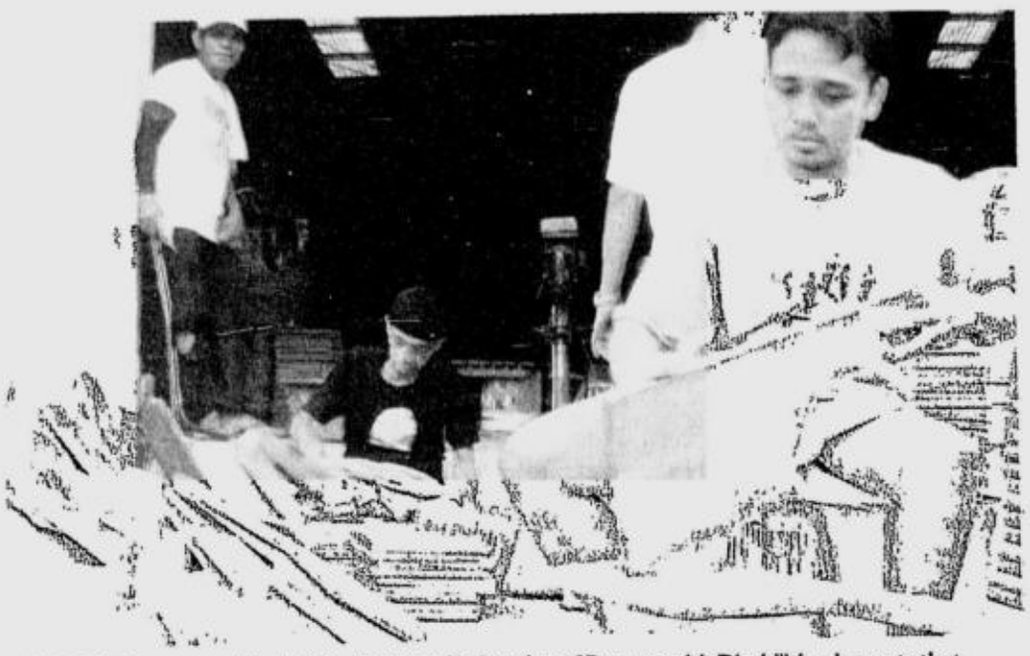
Labutap earned a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree, major in Management, at the privately run St. Paul's College seven years ago but has failed to get a job since graduation.

## No regrets

"I tried to apply for work only to receive rejection because of my physical condition. This is the only job that I know of," he said as he soaked wood slabs into a basin of water-based paint.

"But I don't regret it. I am happy to be here. Somehow, the little income that I earn working here helps my family," he said.

Labutap has been stricken with polio since he was a year old. His parents and six other siblings sell fish at the public market.



WODIE Labutap, president of the Tacloban Federation of Persons with Disabilities, laments that society remains indifferent to handicapped persons who have difficulty in finding decent jobs. JOEY GABIETA

Ladan, 31, who has two children, said her present work was not what she had dreamed of but had not regretted taking it.

"After I graduated, I looked around for a job that fit the degree that I have earned. But unfortunately, our society is not that kind to people like me," she said. She has a BS Marketing degree from the Eastern Visayas State University and had once undergone training for a possible job at a call center.

## School armchairs

Ladan is now busy sanding, varnishing, painting and piling the chairs that she and the rest of the group make from Monday to Saturday, morning up to late afternoon. Her husband Leandro, 41, joins her sometimes if he is not busy doing carpentry.

At most, the PWDs earn P500 for six days' work. Each of them contributes to the "sinking fund" of their organization, the Tacloban Federation of Persons with Disabilities, which has fewer than 30 members although the city has more than 2,000 PWDs.

Labutap, who is president of the federation, and Ladan remain hopeful of finding higher-paying jobs. "I guess this (job) is just temporary. God is good," Labutap said.

For half a day, the group works on armchairs to be delivered to public high schools throughout Eastern Visayas.

Ma. Lourdes Sabato, focal person on welfare programs for PWDs, said the shop—once an empty warehouse—was the product of a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Education and the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disabilities signed early this year.

Tacloban, she said, was one of eight areas in the country where groups of PWDs would be hired to assemble the school armchairs.

"It was through the effort of Rommel Abuyen, who is also physically challenged and from this city, that we were chosen," Sabato said.

## Contract to expire

Under the agreement, the PWDs will assemble 5,994 chairs to be distributed to 52 public high schools in the region. Some 3,500 chairs have been produced since they started in March.

Because the raw materials still come from Manila, there had been days when the workers were idle. "And without work, we don't earn money," Labutap said.

He and the rest of the labor force face an immediate problem. By the end of this month, their work contract will end and they will find themselves without jobs again.

"That is why we feel sad that they will end their work soon. We are aware that because of their work at the shop, they had gained some confidence that they could also be of use in our society," Sabato said.

"We know that it is not easy for them to find work," she added.

Sabato said her office would come up with other livelihood projects for them, including growing vegetables.

"As much as we would like to help them, we simply cannot do that due to our very limited resources. We don't want them to be idle and rely on the government. We want them to develop the principle of self-reliance and help not only themselves but also their families," she said.

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# Carpenter's son carves name as visual artist

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
*Iloilo City*

A CARPENTER'S SON CARVED a name for himself when he won in the recent Metrobank Art and Design Excellence competition, proving to himself that he was right when he decided to become an artist despite being "poor and struggling."

Harry Mark Gonzales, 26, won the grand prize in sculpture with his terra-cotta piece "A protest over the Guimaras oil spill."

What he has done was a *tour de force*. The red clay was smeared with blackened oil that is not unlike how the bunker fuel choked the mangrove, rocks and marine life during the oil spill off Guimaras Island on Aug. 11, 2006.

The 14-inch work makes a statement on the ecological disaster through twin figures—a dying fish swimming to the bottom of the sea and woman with mouth open, as if gasping for breath on the surface of the water. It was a moving metaphor to the destruction brought by the oil spill.

HARRY Mark Gonzales and his winning piece "A protest over the Guimaras oil spill" CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I visited the beaches of Nueva Valencia in Guimaras at the height of the oil spill. I went home and carried with me overwhelming sentiments over what I saw," Gonzales said.

Guimaras is a 20-minute boat ride from Iloilo City. Weeks after the spill caused by the sinking of the MT Solar I carrying Petron's bunker fuel, scores of artists and filmmakers descended there to protest, paint and create films against environmental destruction.

For winning the top prize, Gonzales received P200,000 and the chance to meet and discuss his work before artists, critics, art patrons and collectors in Manila. He said it was a high point of his life as a young visual artist.

## Studio assistant

Gonzales said he decided to become an artist when he was 14 or 15 years old. He used to tag along with his father Henry, a carpenter, who worked at Edward Defensor's studio in Mandurriao District. Defensor, a noted visual and mixed-media artist in Iloilo, paints and sculpts in terra-cotta, wood, rock and copper nails.

At first, Gonzales was asked to help clean up the work area, but Defensor noticed that he was interested in woodwork. Later, he asked Gonzales to assist him in his studio, which is also a meeting place of other artists like Benji Belgica, Jose Amora, Alan Cabalfin, Fred Orig and PG Zoluaga.

"I met many artists and listened to their talks. I wanted to be like them. When I went home, I would take out a piece of wood and carve. Unfortunately, my attempts ended up as firewood. But no matter, because I was able to express myself," Gonzales said.

Sometimes he locked up himself in his room to paint and cut classes to observe how artists work. He quit high school when he was in his third year but returned the following year. With the support of Defensor, he took up a two-year computer course but instead of a career with computers, he returned to art.

Defensor said he discouraged Gonzales from becoming an artist. He had thought that it would do him and his family well if the young man worked abroad and earned well.

But Gonzales persisted and surprised Defensor by becoming a national finalist in the Shell National Student Art Competition in 2000. He didn't win but somebody bought his work for P8,000.

"I was happy. I bought a pair of shoes. I gave the rest to my parents although I keep some amount to buy more clay," Gonzales said.

In 2002, 2004 and 2006, he joined the Shell contests and won third prize and two honorable mentions. He started joining group exhibitions. Among them were the "Viva Excon IX," a touring exhibition of Visayas visual artists in 2004; "The Nude" held at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas art gallery this year; and the second biennial terra-cotta art festival held at the Silliman University in Dumaguete City, also this year.

After receiving awards and being invited to shows, Gonzales said he could survive as an artist. "I know the meaning of sacrifice. I want to continue with what I'm happy to do, which is art."

## Beads and bracelets

In between exhibits, he creates "fast-moving" souvenir items like clay beads and bracelets. What he earns from them, he buys clay and other art materials.

Gonzales' persistence and dedication to his craft have earned the praise of established artists like Defensor and Belgica, who wasn't surprised when he learned that Gonzales had started making a name for himself. "There's depth in his work, passion even," said Belgica.

Defensor, an early influence to Gonzales, cautions him not to be competition-driven, but to continue creating, which is the mark of a serious artist.

# *Bank president says JDV-Lacson meeting tackled reconciliation*

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE BANKER WHO HAD ARranged a meeting between Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said that the talks were meant to "work on a reconciliation process to save the gains achieved by the surging economy."

Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa also told the INQUIRER that he could not confirm whether the money received by Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio from Malacañang on Oct. 11 had come from the bank, as Panlilio had said.

"I'm not saying that Panlilio is wrong, but I have to see the wrappers because these would indicate which branch the money was withdrawn [from], and where it was bundled," De Mesa said.

He said that as a precaution against armed holdups, Bank of Commerce was keeping only a small amount of cash in its vaults.

"So it's impossible to withdraw more than P2 million from any of our branches," he said.

De Mesa said the De Venecia-Lacson meeting that he arranged sometime in August was not in any way related to the reported cash handouts in Malacañang.

"The Speaker requested if I could arrange a meeting between him and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, so that he could discuss his ideas on the reconciliation process, which would only redound to the benefit of the country," the banker said.

Per De Mesa's account, Lacson listened to De Venecia's proposals and the Speaker "appealed" to the senator "to agree to work with the government in finding a sustainable solution to the political problems that could affect the economy and the country."

Lacson told the Speaker that he was "willing to work on a process to solve these political issues and move toward genuine reconciliation on three conditions," De Mesa said.

He said these conditions were:

- That the government be transparent in its policies.
- That genuine efforts be taken toward good governance.
- That the government show genuine and concrete actions to curb and eradicate corruption.

De Mesa said that at the conclusion of the meeting, the two officials agreed to put all the proposals in writing as "talking points" that De Venecia would present to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

# De Venecia says he and President need truce

From page A1

phone. "We need a breakthrough—not a breakdown—in our relationship. What's needed is a truce amid all the intrigues."

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs, said De Venecia should move to banish the suspicion that he was sleeping with the enemy.

"If there are cracks at all that are showing in the administration coalition, it is the leadership of the Speaker that must come in since the President is obviously a victim of this propaganda agitation," Puno said in an interview over ANC.

According to Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, De Venecia should cut his ties with Ms Arroyo.

"I believe it's time that he severed his ties because I don't think Gloria (Ms Arroyo) wants him to stay as Speaker. In the long run, both need each other to survive. But for the moment, Gloria needs to ease out anyone who would threaten her hold on Malacañang with an impeachment, and she will need allies who will go with her all the way," Pimentel told the INQUIRER.

### 'Machiavellian intriguers'

De Venecia, a key ally of Ms Arroyo for nearly a decade now, said she should not listen to the purported intrigues and disinformation intended to drive a wedge between them.

He said the perceived conflict was created only by "Machiavellian intriguers," and "fanned further by the opposition and the media."

"There's a little distrust (between us) because of the intrigues," he said. "We need to get out of this stalemate."

In a separate interview with the INQUIRER at his residence in Makati City, De Venecia raised the need for "diplomatic restoration" between him and Ms Arroyo.

"There are people who don't like the idea that I pose a veto on the President. They want overwhelming leadership. They don't want power-sharing," he said, adding:

"They don't appreciate that I'm able to say no to some of the proposals."

The Speaker said he might have to meet with Ms Arroyo on Monday—"either on my initiative or hers"—before he presents to her his proposal for "a moral revolution" anchored on drastic measures to cut corruption in government.

"She has to tell me her fears and I will do the same," he said. "Pride is no longer an issue here."

### It's JDV's move

Puno said he continued to believe in De Venecia's best intentions and leadership capability, but quickly added:

"I think it's time for the Speaker to show this leadership by taking steps to assuage the fears of everyone, the fears in the administration, that he is beginning to actually have a sharing of interest with the opposition more than with the administration, fears that he might be instrumental in efforts to destabilize the administration."

According to Puno, "rumors [flew] fast and furious" a day after an unidentified Malacañang official said the relationship of the two leaders took a turn for the worse after the Speaker's son and namesake implicated Ms Arroyo's husband in the bribery scandal involving the National Broadband Network project.

"All of these are probably unfounded allegations against him, but in the same manner that the President has to clarify all charges that are raised against her, including the most ridiculous ones, I think it behooves the Speaker to do the same thing," Puno said.

### Separate meetings

Top leaders of the House of Representatives have moved to avert a possible collapse of the ruling coalition.

Led by Deputy Speakers Raul del Mar, Eric Singson and Ma. Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa, the group met separately with Ms Arroyo and De Venecia to contain what Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman called "irritants" in the relationship.

"The meetings were meant to find a solution and to smoothen the rough edges in the relations between the House and Malacañang," Lagman said by phone.

Also present at the two meetings was House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor, who told the INQUIRER that the group had initiated the dialogue to "emphasize that the members of the coalition didn't want to see the alliance breaking up."

"If we don't do anything, there's a possibility that we may wake up one day seeing the coalition falling apart," he said.

Lagman, chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, said the coalition members would end up like "fallen warriors" in the event of a collapse.

He said the meetings were a relative success considering that both Ms Arroyo and De Venecia had agreed on the "need to preserve the coalition."

He said the group first met with De Venecia at his residence from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. the other day. The meeting with Ms Arroyo took place at around 7 p.m. of the same day in Malacañang, he said.

### Optimism

Lagman and Defensor expressed optimism that Ms Arroyo and De Venecia would have a one-on-one meeting soon as part of a continuing dialogue to maintain the coalition's stability.

"In any relationship, there are irritants, but these should be contained, not exacerbated," Lagman said. "There is no war between them, only warmongers."

He said the purported conflict was created only by "disgruntled elements."

Lagman said the speculations were centered on Ms Arroyo's purported move to unseat the Speaker through the ethics case filed against the latter by private lawyer Roel Pulido.

The same lawyer later filed a purportedly weak impeachment complaint against the President. De Venecia said he—not Ms Arroyo—was basically the target of the complaint.

"I'm telling you categorically—there is no move on the part of the President to oust the Speaker. Neither is there is a plot from the Speaker to impeach the President," Lagman said.

### Muddling the waters

On the purported intrigues, De Venecia cited the allegation that he was working to come up with 80 signatures from congressmen so the Pulido complaint could be transmitted to the Senate right away.

He flatly denied the allegation, saying: "Why would I waste my time, effort and energy for a fake complaint? It should not get even one signature. It's plain stupidity *(kagaguhan)*."

De Venecia said the allegation was just as hard to believe as Puno's claim that the money distributed to congressmen in Malacañang on Oct. 11 had come from the Speaker.

"It's meant to muddle the waters," he said of Puno's claim "If the amounts came from me, I would distribute them myself so the credit would go to me."

He also said Puno was "probably misquoted."

An ally of De Venecia in the House said Puno was "getting orders from higher authority" in implicating the Speaker in the cash handouts.

The source, who asked not to be named because of his sensitive position in the House, said De Venecia had been avoiding a direct confrontation with Puno because the latter had supported his bid for the speakership.

The source said Puno appeared to be insulating Ms Arroyo from the controversy over the cash handouts, at the Speaker's expense.

### 'Rumors'

Puno said he had spoken with De Venecia to inquire into "rumors" that the latter had been secretly meeting with former President Corazon Aquino, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, ostensibly to plan a coalition with the opposition and to solicit support for Ms Arroyo's impeachment.

He said he remained "a friend of the Speaker," and was not inclined to believe the "rumors."

"But really, I think he is beginning to bother a lot of people, and I think it would be good if the Speaker really spoke out categorically insofar as his efforts to keep our administration coalition together [are concerned]," Puno said.

Puno chairs Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi). He heads a faction that picked De Venecia over Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia in the fight for the speakership. (Garcia, a Kampi member, is a staunch ally of Ms Arroyo.)

The other Kampi faction is led by Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, the party president.

### Trust level

De Venecia said the trust level between him and Ms Arroyo started to be affected as early as the May elections, when a report floated that the latter was supporting his opponent—former Dagupan Mayor Benjie Lim—in his congressional district in Pangasinan.

"That report was never confirmed. There was a very small iota of truth to it, but people used it to create intrigues between the two of us," De Venecia said.

"Then in the speakership fight, she was ambivalent. But I believe that by and large, she helped me," he added.

De Venecia said he believed Ms Arroyo supported him both in his bid for a third term as Pangasinan congressman and in his bid for a fifth turn at the speakership.

"When my son testified before the Senate, he was always saying 'My President, my President'.... She has my absolute support. If only there were no intrigues, it would have been quite well," De Venecia said.

"The intrigues have done a lot of damage," he added. ***With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.***

# Palace ignores bishops' resign-GMA call

From page A1

"While we respect the individual opinions of the three bishops, we definitely disagree with their characterization of the President. We believe that this is not the view of the majority of the members of the Catholic community," he said.

Bunye added that the issues being raised by the three bishops advising the KME had been and were being taken up in the courts and in various official forums.

But other Christian groups—the Jesus is Lord (JIL) Movement and the Philippines for Jesus Movement (PJM)—crossed denominational boundaries and announced that they were joining the KME's call for Ms Arroyo to resign.

And militant groups conducted a protest action in Manila to Ms Arroyo's resignation, as well as genuine agrarian reform and an end to corruption.

### No basis

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, secretary general of the Governors' League, said Ms Arroyo should reject any call for her resignation.

"It has no basis and no leg to stand on. It's all part of a continuing grand design to destabilize the government to the detriment of the ordinary Filipino," Evardone said in a text message.

"This political noise in Manila should stop because the people in the countryside are already sick and tired of the desperate attempts of the opposition to grab political power," he said.

Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol also belittled the renewed demand for Ms Arroyo to step down.

"If you go back to history, [you will see that] they are always calling for the resignation of the President. So that's just a force of habit," Apostol told reporters. "There is no good reason for that."

Apostol said the resignation call aired by Bishop Antonio Tobias of Novaliches, Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen of Infanta, Quezon, was not a threat to Ms Arroyo because the call had become "habitual" on their part.

"They have been doing that in the past years. Every time there is a little problem, they will come out [to call on Ms Arroyo to] resign," he said.

### Opposition 'grandstanding'

Apostol said any call by the three bishops for mass actions to force Ms Arroyo to step down would prove unsuccessful.

"The public is not reacting," he said.

Asked if he thought the prelates were acting "in conspiracy" with other political or military forces, Apostol said it was more of the opposition seeking to "grandstand" rather than a "grand scheme."

"They want to involve the CBCP (Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines), they want to involve the soldiers, they want to involve everybody. But the public is also tired of what the opposition is doing. They are not doing something concrete for the improvement of the welfare of our people," he said.

Apostol said the opposition's duty was to "try to destabilize the administration."

But "the Palace is doing very well; there is no reason for a coup [attempt]," he said.

### Call for action

In a briefing yesterday to launch a "call for action" against the Arroyo administration, leaders of the JIL and PJM said they were supporting the movement led by Tobias, Iñiguez and Labayen to "seek what is right" in government.

Bishop Dan Balais of the PJM, a movement led by former presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, urged the public to join the resignation call, saying it was time for the people to make their voices heard.

Balais said that as the only Christian nation in the region, the Philippines should be a model for justice and truth. Instead, he said, the government had made the Philippines a "laughingstock" of other nations.

He said the PJM had 5,000 churches under its network which were united in their convictions.

Pastor Domeng Rivera of the JIL said it was backing the calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation because as a Christian denomination, it had always supported a clean government.

He said a clean government would pave the way for a peaceful and economically stable country.

### Call to 'untainted'

But Bishop Tobias said numbers were not important as far as the new movement for Ms Arroyo's resignation was concerned.

He said the "call for action" was an answer to the CBCP's recent declaration that the present administration was morally bankrupt.

He also said the movement was not limited to priests and other religious groups but could also include the laity.

"Our movement is a call to the clean and the untainted. If you are clean and untainted, join us," said Tobias.

Iñiguez clarified that the resignation call of the three bishops was from their personal convictions and did not represent the CBCP's official stand.

But he said he knew that many like-minded priests were supporting their cause. "We have a feeling *hindi kami nagiisa* (that we are not alone in this)," he said.

Labayen also distanced the group's actions from any political motive, saying that its call was not in support of any politician.

He said they were not bishops against Ms Arroyo but bishops for truth, morality and the common good.

"We don't want to entangle ourselves with party politics. We are not politicians, we are pastors," Labayen said.

The KME also called for Ms Arroyo's resignation in 2005, at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal.

It is now questioning her supposed participation in various controversies like the National Broadband Network deal, the CyberEd Project, the Northrail Project, and the cash handouts in the Palace.

"If a regime is morally bankrupt, has propensity for falsehoods and repeatedly lies with impunity, there is no other alternative for the people but to demand that the leader, the Chief Executive, the President, step down and resign," the KME said in a statement.

### NCCP call

In a statement, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) denounced the cash handouts in Malacañang on Oct. 11, calling the act an assault on the propriety expected from public servants.

The NCCP also berated Malacañang for claiming ignorance on the issue by calling for an investigation on the incident. It called on the laity to pray for "genuine change" in the country.

The NCCP's member-churches include the Episcopal Church of the Philippines, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Lutheran Church of the Philippines, and United Methodist Church.

### Protest action

Waving flags and banners, some 3,000 protesters gathered in front of the University of Santo Tomas on España in Manila at around 10 a.m. before marching toward Morayta to demand genuine agrarian reform and Ms Arroyo's resignation.

The protesters, mainly members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, initially planned to march toward the historic Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge, but they were blocked by antiriot police at the corner of Morayta and Recto, where they held a program until 3:30 p.m.

"While farmers have nothing to eat and are landless, high officials are handing out dirty money to buy political favors. They should be made accountable for this," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos.

He added: "We are calling for a radical agrarian reform program that would give free land to farmers. By doing this, we are empowering peasants and setting up a mighty force against corruption and the sellout of our patrimony through Charter change."

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan who joined the protest action demanded that Ms Arroyo step down.

Bayan chair Carol Araullo said resignation was "a most reasonable demand" given Ms Arroyo's current situation.

Said Araullo: "There is a growing public consensus that the President gravely erred and that the solution to the political crisis is for her to step down. Right now, that is our main concern. As to who will replace her, the Constitution already provides for that in the event that she does step down.

"Whether it is through her resignation, impeachment, or people's direct action, there is no doubt that the people want her out. People are outraged by the shameless display of corruption in the face of worsening poverty." ***With a report from Tina G. Santos***

More Sports stories on A23 to 25

LateSPORTS

# SSC halts Adamson volley streak

By Romina S. Austria

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE PUT A stop to Adamson University's ambitious run with a 25-20, 25-18, 25-14 win, the Lady Stags' debut match in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

SSC coach Roger Gorayeb credited the straight-set victory, which snapped Adamson's two-game run, to their defense.

"This time, we're putting more emphasis on defense," said Gorayeb, who recently led the Lady Stags to their third consecutive NCAA crown. "We concentrated too much on offense in the first conference."

"Everyone did their fair share in defense–blocking, digging," added Gorayeb.

Thai import Jaroensri Bualee, back for the Lady Stags, who were runners-up in the past two conferences, made a game-high 19 points, 15 coming from attacks.

But Bualee also typified the Lady Stags' defense, not going for too many smashes but instead helped out her teammates in foiling the opponents' scoring attempts.

The Lady Stags blocked a total of 59 Lady Falcons tries.

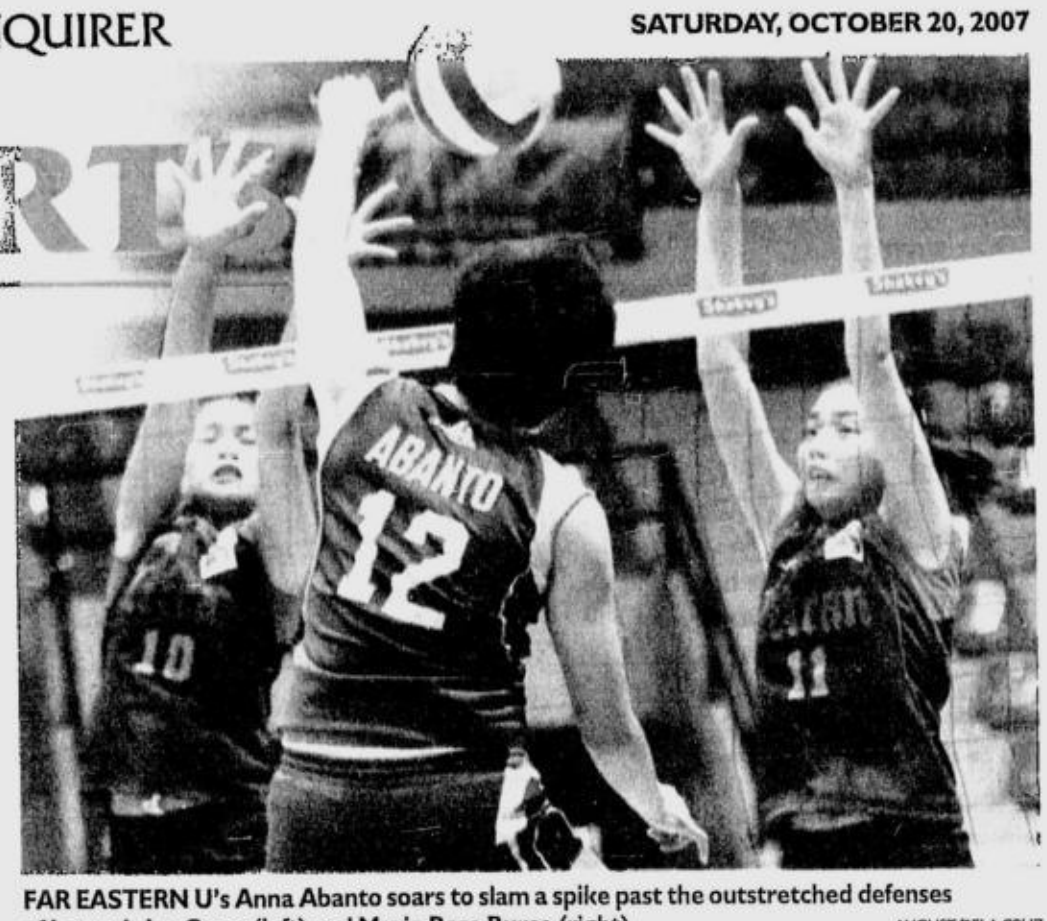
Also the first conference Most Valuable Player, Bualee arrived in the country on Oct. 13, a day before the league opened, and practiced for the next five days.

Rysabelle Devanadera and reigning NCAA MVP Laurence Ann Latigay scored 13 and 12 points, respectively.

FEU downed Letran in the second game, 25-15, 25-21, 25-15, to notch its first win in two matches.

Letran, last placer in the previous conference, fell to the cellar at 0-2.

Rachel Anne Daquis, who had a smash and a block to end the first set, topscored with 13 points while Maria Josephine Cafrance chipped in 12.



FAR EASTERN U's Anna Abanto soars to slam a spike past the outstretched defenses of Letran's Joy Cases (left) and Marie Rose Burce (right). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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# Tigers, Kings triumph

## Devance debut ends in injury

**GAME TODAY (*Dumaguete City*)**
5 p.m.—Purefoods vs Talk N Text
**GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)**
4:05 p.m.—Magnolia vs Sta. Lucia Realty
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Air21

By June Navarro

**EVERYBODY EXPECTED A HUGE COMING out party from the top rookie pick only to get frustrated in the end.**

Joe Devance spent most of his rookie debut at the sidelines as the Coca-Cola Tigers pounced on his second half absence to down his Welcoat Dragons, 85-76, last night in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The No. 1 overall selection by the Dragons in this year's draft suffered a freak accident that injured his right ankle during practice the day before and bravely tried to play through it for a few minutes in the first half, only to spend the rest of the game on a chair in crutches.

The 6-foot-7 Devance could only watch in gloom as the Dragons wasted a 19-point spread in the first half before sputtering completely in the face of the Tigers' aggressive stance.

Devance, who played for University of El Paso-Texas in the US NCAA, saw action for only four minutes in the second quarter and canned a three-pointer while obviously favoring his right foot.

### Grimacing in pain

When Welcoat coach Leo Austria pulled the former PBL MVP out, Devance's injury visibly had gone from bad to worse as he grimaced in pain while making his way to the dugout at halftime.

Devance's no-show in the second half practically decimated Welcoat's frontline and allowed Coca-Cola the leeway it needed to seize control of the match.

Barangay Ginebra squandered a 23-point lead before Mark Macapagal stepped in and sparked the Kings to a 102-95 win over Red Bull in the other game.

Macapagal clustered 13 straight points, including six of the last eight free throws with less than a minute left as the Kings staved off the Bulls to join the Tigers in the winner's circle.

Macapagal, who finished with 21 points, went 12 of 13 from the charity line.

Nic Belasco, part of Welcoat's triple frontline threat of Devance and 6-foot-7 Jay-R Reyes, scored 16 points in the first half but only had six points down the stretch to pace the Dragons with 22 points.

Belasco was just 2 of 10 in the fourth and went 0 of 6 from three-point area.

The Tigers clamped down on Belasco while shifting to a zone defense that baffled the Welcoat ball movement in the latter half.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**COLA-COLA 85**—Arigo 26, Buenafe 16, Telan 12, Enrile 8, Peek 8, Calimag 7, Tolomia 7, Isip 2, Echavez 1, Misolas 0, Duremdes 0.

**WELCOAT 76**—Belasco 22, Reyes 14, Ibañes 8, Arana 6, Lopez 5, Baguion 4, Gelig 4, Wainright 4, Devance 3, Sta. Maria 3, Mente 3.

**Quarters:** 20-23, 37-43, 60-57, 85-76

**Second Game**

**GINEBRA 102**—Macapagal 21, Tubid 15, Helterbrand 14, Mamani 13, Salvacion 11, Aquino 7, Reavis 7, Holper 5, Artadi 4, Escalona 2, Abarrientos 2, Lao 1.

**RED BULL 95**—Bagulo 26, Valenzuela 17, Robinson 14, Najorda 13, Penisi 8, Sharma 7, Cruz 4, Adriano 3, Andaya 2, Ybañez 1, Bugia 0, Hrabak 0.

**Quarters:** 29-24, 59-36, 76-65, 102-95

A plus METRO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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# 'Overpayment' to 3 contractors probed

## Pasay legal officer may file charges vs former mayor, other officials

By Julie M. Aurelio

PASAY CITY MAYOR WENCESlao Trinidad has ordered a probe into the alleged P1-million overpayment to three private contractors during the term of former mayor Allan Panaligan.

In a four-page order, Trinidad instructed city legal officer Phydias Ramos to look into the possible administrative and criminal liabilities of Panaligan and officials who served under him.

Included in the order are Santiago Quial, ex city administrator; Ofelia Oliva, ex city treasurer; Magdalena Oruga, ex city accountant; Julita Cayanan, ex city budget officer; and Edwin Javaluyas, ex city engineer.

Trinidad said infrastructure projects undertaken during Panaligan's term resulted in a reported overpayment of P1,049,816.10 to three private contractors: Greco Construction and Supply, Vivid Construction, and Armando U. Kuong Hun General Contractor.

But Quial said his role in the transaction was limited to signing the checks presented to him. He said there was no overpayment as the city government kept a portion of the total value of the contract as a sort of "warranty" in case of defects in the infrastructure or errors on the part of the contractor.

"We call the ten percent of the contract's value as retention. The city government keeps it for one year and then it is released," Quial said in a phone interview. He added he was open to a probe to clear his name.

"It's just a simple accounting problem. P1 million is a small amount for a reported overpayment," Quial said.

Trinidad has formed an ad hoc committee consisting of city administrator Tina Carbajal, treasurer Concepcion Daplas, and assistant accounting department head Renato Reyles to investigate the alleged overpayment.

"Other local officials, by the nature of their duties, may also be held accountable and responsible through their participation in the process," Trinidad said.

In a report submitted to the mayor, the ad hoc committee said Greco's contract was valued at P7,701,168, but an overpayment of P173,276.28 was allegedly made.

Vivid Construction's contract was P6,868,850 with a reported overpayment of P154,549.13, while Kuong Hun's contract of P21,878,506 had a reported overpayment of P721,990.69.

The committee also recommended that the contractors refund the excess amounts, and explain the overpayments and why they should not be blacklisted by the city government.

# Beltran family concedes road mishap an accident

By Tina G. Santos

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran has already opted for an out-of court settlement with the driver of the sports utility vehicle that rammed his car Tuesday in Manila.

Beltran sustained a cut near his left eye, on the bridge of his nose and a big bruise on his left shoulder, while his driver, Jimmy Miranda, sustained bruises in the legs and feet as a result of the collision.

According to the solon's daughter, Ofelia Balleta, they are no longer pursuing a complaint against Bernard Madrona, the driver of the Ford Everest that collided with Beltran's Toyota Hi-ace van at the corner of Juan Luna and Victoria Streets, Intramuros on Tuesday morning.

"Everything's settled now," Balleta told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. She said Madrona agreed to shoulder half of Beltran and Miranda's hospital bills as well as expenses for the repair of the congressman's van.

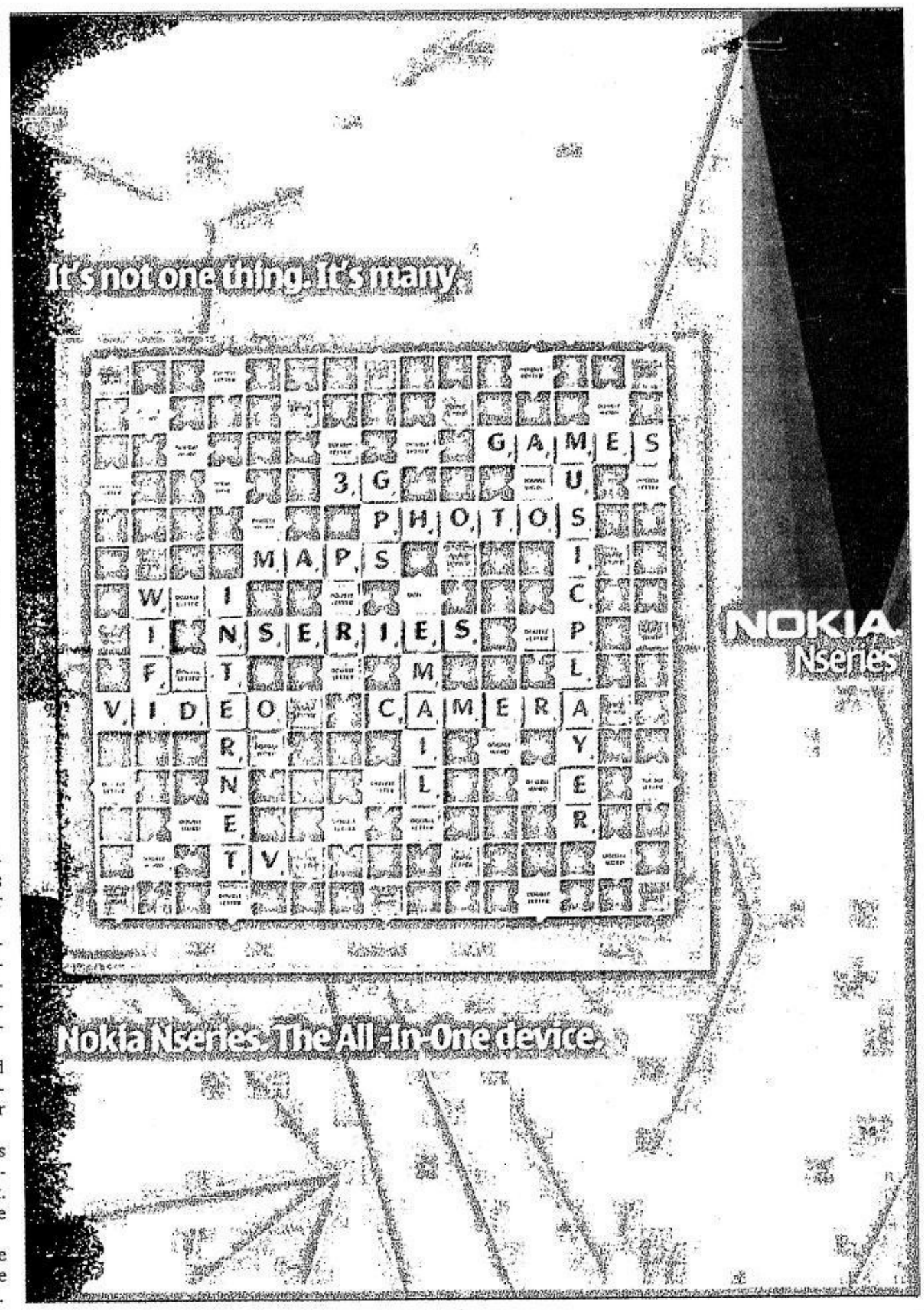
Balleta added that her family was already convinced it was an accident and was not politically motivated or a threat on her father's life.

Beltran had earlier said he wanted policemen to conduct a thorough investigation, saying he was not discounting the possibility that the incident could be an attempt on his life following his recent exposes against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Balleta said they were also convinced that the Madronas were not linked to anyone who may have the motive to harm her dad.

"We've already talked and the Madronas were claiming that they're just simple people with no connections in the government. We believe them, so we consider the case closed," she told the INQUIRER.

"We would also like to apologize to the Madronas because their names were dragged into a controversy," Balleta added.



# Baywalk turns 'wholesome'

By Allison W. Lopez

FREE ENTERTAINMENT IS BACK on Baywalk starting today.

But Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said yesterday it would consist of more "wholesome" cultural performances.

Instead of scantily clad dancers and loud band music, the "Sining at Kalinangan sa Baywalk" will feature cultural dancers and musicians to draw families and tourists to the tree-lined walkway on Roxas Boulevard.

"It's a cultural program intended to entertain the public and their families on weekend strolls at Baywalk. It should therefore feature shows and activities fit only for family entertainment," he said.

The mayor ordered the dismantling of the restaurant-bars on the strip when he assumed office in July reportedly because of complaints of noise and indecency from nearby residents and the lack of business permits. He vowed to revive entertainment in the area with the help of rondallas and student bands.

This weekend's featured talents are students of Lakandula High School and Mababang Paaralan ng A. Herrera, who will present Philippine folk dances.

A medley of native folk songs reminiscent of the *kundiman* will be performed by the Juan Luna Elementary School chorale group.

Lim said the 4-6 p.m. cultural shows would be on Saturdays only so as not to affect offices and residents and interfere with the studies of young performers.

He said the program would run until the last Saturday of November.

# Resignation GMA's only honorable way out

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

IF MEMORY SERVES, THE SITUATION now is comparable to weeks preceding Marcos' declaration of martial law on Sept. 11, 1972.

I was a reporter for a radio-TV news network then. My fellow field reporters and I were kept busy covering bombings in Metro Manila.

Then, not unexpectedly, Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law purportedly to save the republic from the communists and the rightists.

Is history repeating itself now?

* * *

Was the bombing at Glorietta the handiwork of enemies of the state or the government?

President Gloria, like President Marcos then, has painted herself into a corner.

Her present predicament is of her own doing, what with the "Hello Garci" scandal, the ZTE-NBN scandal and the mass bribery of congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

There is no way for her, as there was no way for Marcos then, but to declare a state of emergency to keep herself in power. Marcos stayed in power for many years.

Like Marcos, GMA might blame the leftists and the rightists for the current trouble when it was she who created it in the first place.

* * *

But if ever GMA plans to do another Marcos in the current situation, she will fail.

FM held the military by the neck. The military holds GMA by the neck.

Most people at the time had an ambivalent attitude toward Marcos. Although many people distrusted him, still an equal number believed he was sincere in solving the country's problems.

On the other hand, most people so distrust President Gloria they want her to resign.

* * *

The only honorable way out for GMA at this time is to resign.

Ma'am, you can't rely on your military to support you when the enraged citizenry finally comes knocking at the Palace gates.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, can't defend you since he himself is in danger of being thrown out by his own men.

A Muslim convert, Dolorfino got the ire of his men when he ordered a stop to the probe into the ambush, massacre and mutilation of 12 Marines in Basilan by Moros.

The perception, rightly or wrongly, is that Dolorfino is sympathetic toward Moro rebels and outlaws, like the Abu Sayyaf.

You can't rely on your Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. either, because he's also very unpopular with the troops.

My sources in the military say they dislike Esperon for his shabby treatment of two very popular generals—Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda of the Marines, and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim of the Rangers—and the much-loved lower-ranking officers now in jail for their alleged part in an attempted coup two years ago.

The officers are being held incommunicado.

Miranda and Lim are no firebrands like then Col. Gregorio Honasan who wanted the removal of then President Cory Aquino and her replacement by a military junta.

Miranda and Lim just want reforms in the Armed Forces, as well as in the civilian government. All they want is a corruption-free government.

Their supporters in the military and among civilians are countless. They're just waiting for the right time to express their sentiments.

# 29 held for gun ban violation

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWENTY-NINE PERSONS HAVE been arrested in less than a month in Quezon City for violating the Commission on Elections (Comelec) gun ban now in force for the coming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Quezon City Police District Director Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula reminded police personnel and the public to secure the necessary Comelec permit to enable them to carry firearms for the duration of the election period.

The polls will be held on Oct. 29.

## METROBRIEFS

### Editor loses valuables in car

CAR THIEVES broke into the parked vehicle of Manila Standard Today entertainment editor Isah Red Thursday evening in San Juan City, taking away items worth close to P150,000. Red said the thieves smashed the window of his silver BMW (XRH 963) and stole his Mac Book Pro Laptop and other personal belongings. Red's car was at Car park No. 6 inside the Greenhills Shopping Center when the incident took place. Eastern Police District chief Sr. Supt. Nilo de la Cruz said the incident should serve as a warning to shoppers who leave valuables inside parked cars within the premises of malls and shopping centers. Police and mall officials said they would investigate the loss and assess security measures in the parking area. ***Kristine L. Alave***

### 2 men shot dead in QC

TWO MEN were gunned down Thursday night in a span of two hours in separate incidents in Quezon City. Malvin Lising, of Carmel 5 Subdivision, Barangay Tandang Sora, and Ricardo Dadivas, of Barangay Commonwealth died instantly from multiple bullet wounds in the head and body. A police report showed that the first incident happened at around 8:15 p.m., along Libra Street, in Carmel 5 Subdivision. Lising was found dead with several gunshot wounds in the head and body by neighbors after they heard successive shots in the area. Two hours later, Dadivas was gunned down by two motorcycle-riding armed suspects at the corner of Pilot Drive and Adarna Street. The victim was on his way home when the suspects came up to him and shot him in the face, chest and back. Police are still establishing the motives behind the attacks. ***Jeannette I. Andrade***

### Kidney patient needs help

GLORIA Arrogante has been undergoing hemodialysis for more than a year now for a chronic kidney disease (stage 5). The 44-year-old resident of Block II Lot 7 Montevilla Phase II, Barangay Burgos, Rodriguez, Rizal, goes to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City twice a week for treatment. She has four children with her husband Leo, who works as a cook in a Marikina City restaurant. "If I cannot find a kidney donor for my wife, I'm asking your readers to help me defray the cost of the treatments," he wrote the INQUIRER. Contact Leo at 0920-6631724 or 941-4615. Deposits can be made to his RCBC bank account No. 1195423880.

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| ITEM | BLOCK | LOT | TOTAL AREA | MINIMUM BID PRICE (PhP) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2-A | 1 | 241 | 1,049,314.00 |
| 2 | 2-A | 3 | 310 | 1,349,740.00 |
| 3 | 2-A | 18 | 260 | 1,132,040.00 |
| 4 | 2-A | 19 | 280 | 1,219,120.00 |
| 5 | 2-A | 20 | 362 | 1,576,148.00 |
| 6 | 2-A | 21 | 390 | 1,698,060.00 |
| 7 | 2-A | 22 | 403 | 1,754,662.00 |
| 8 | 2-A | 23 | 337 | 1,467,298.00 |
| 9 | 2-A | 24 | 268 | 1,166,872.00 |
| 10 | 2-A | 27 | 234 | 1,018,836.00 |
| 11 | 2-A | 29 | 258 | 1,123,332.00 |
| 12 | 7 | 18-A | 74 | 322,196.00 |
| 13 | 7 | 18-B | 49 | 213,346.00 |
| 14 | 7 | 18-C | 54 | 235,116.00 |
| 15 | 7 | 18-D | 57 | 248,178.00 |
| 16 | 7 | 18-E | 58 | 252,532.00 |
| 17 | 7 | 18-F | 58 | 252,532.00 |
| 18 | 7 | 18-G | 899 | 3,914,246.00 |
| 19 | 7 | 18-I | 582 | 2,534,028.00 |
| 20 | 7 | 18-H-1 | 74 | 322,196.00 |
| 21 | 7 | 18-H-2 | 50 | 217,700.00 |
| 22 | 7 | 18-H-3 | 50 | 217,700.00 |
| 23 | 7 | 18-H-4 | 50 | 217,700.00 |
| 24 | 7 | 18-H-5 | 50 | 217,700.00 |
| 25 | 7 | 18-H-6 | 50 | 217,700.00 |
| 26 | 7 | 18-H-7 | 77 | 335,258.00 |
| 27 | 7 | 18-H-8 | 103 | 448,462.00 |

PHASE II

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | 1 | 1-A | 94 | 370,493.48 |
| 29 | 1 | 1-B | 102 | 402,024.84 |
| 30 | 1 | 2-A | 105 | 413,849.10 |
| 31 | 1 | 2-B | 112 | 441,439.04 |
| 32 | 1 | 3-A | 128 | 504,501.76 |
| 33 | 1 | 3-B | 129 | 508,443.18 |
| 34 | 1 | 4-A | 112 | 441,439.04 |
| 35 | 1 | 4-B | 102 | 402,024.84 |
| 36 | 1 | 5-A | 88 | 346,844.96 |
| 37 | 1 | 5-B | 81 | 319,255.02 |
| 38 | 1 | 6-A | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 39 | 1 | 6-B | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 40 | 1 | 7-A | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 41 | 1 | 7-B | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 42 | 1 | 8-A | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 43 | 1 | 8-B | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 44 | 1 | 9-A | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 45 | 1 | 9-B | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 46 | 1 | 10-A | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 47 | 1 | 10-B | 78 | 307,430.76 |
| 48 | 1 | 11-A | 77.5 | 305,460.05 |
| 49 | 1 | 11-B | 145.5 | 573,476.61 |
| 50 | 1 | 12-A | 76.5 | 301,518.63 |
| 51 | 1 | 12-B | 76.5 | 301,518.63 |
| 52 | 1 | 13-A | 76.5 | 301,518.63 |
| 53 | 1 | 13-B | 76.5 | 301,518.63 |
| 54 | 1 | 14 | 204 | 804,049.68 |
| 55 | 1 | 15 | 703 | 2,770,818.26 |
| 56 | 1 | 16 | 173 | 681,865.66 |
| 57 | 1 | 17 | 250 | 985,355.00 |
| 58 | 1 | 18-A | 90 | 354,727.80 |
| 59 | 1 | 18-B | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 60 | 1 | 18-C | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 61 | 1 | 18-D | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 62 | 1 | 18-E | 50 | 197,071.00 |
| 63 | 1 | 18-F | 73 | 287,723.66 |
| 64 | 1 | 18-G | 52 | 204,953.84 |
| 65 | 1 | 18-H | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 66 | 1 | 18-I | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 67 | 1 | 18-J | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 68 | 1 | 18-K | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 69 | 1 | 18-L | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 70 | 1 | 18-M | 45 | 177,363.90 |
| 71 | 1 | 18-O | 195 | 768,576.90 |
| 72 | 1 | 18-P | 191 | 752,811.22 |
| 73 | 4 | 2 | 247 | 973,530.74 |
| 74 | 4 | 3 | 184 | 725,221.28 |
| 75 | 4 | 4 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 76 | 5 | 3 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 77 | 5 | 5 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 78 | 5 | 6 | 164 | 646,392.88 |
| 79 | 5 | 8 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 80 | 5 | 9 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 81 | 5 | 10 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 82 | 5 | 12 | 223 | 878,936.66 |
| 83 | 5 | 13 | 227 | 894,702.34 |
| 84 | 5 | 14 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 85 | 5 | 15 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 86 | 5 | 16 | 228 | 898,643.76 |
| 87 | 5 | 17 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 88 | 5 | 18 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 89 | 5 | 19 | 186 | 733,104.12 |
| 90 | 5 | 20 | 200 | 788,284.00 |
| 91 | 6 | 3 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 92 | 6 | 5 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 93 | 6 | 6 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 94 | 6 | 7 | 150 | 591,213.00 |
| 95 | 6 | 8 | 161 | 634,568.62 |
| 96 | 6 | 9 | 184 | 725,221.28 |
| 97 | 6 | 10 | 207 | 815,873.94 |
| 98 | 6 | 11 | 231 | 910,468.02 |
| 99 | 6 | 13 | 154 | 606,978.68 |
| 100 | 6 | 14 | 167 | 658,217.14 |

| ITEM | BLOCK | LOT | TOTAL AREA | MINIMUM BID PRICE (PhP) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 | 6 | 15 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 102 | 6 | 16 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 103 | 6 | 17 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 104 | 6 | 18 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 105 | 6 | 19 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 106 | 6 | 20 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 107 | 6 | 21 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 108 | 6 | 22 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 109 | 6 | 23 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 110 | 6 | 24 | 150 | 591,211.50 |
| 111 | 7 | 3 | 161 | 634,567.01 |
| 112 | 7 | 15-C | 201 | 792,223.41 |
| 113 | 7 | 16-A | 190 | 748,867.90 |
| 114 | 7 | 16-B | 179 | 705,512.39 |

PHASE III

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 115 | 2 | 16 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 116 | 2 | 21 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 117 | 2 | 22 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 118 | 3 | 3 | 175 | 778,071.00 |
| 119 | 3 | 6 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 120 | 3 | 9 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 121 | 3 | 10 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 122 | 3 | 11 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 123 | 3 | 14 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 124 | 3 | 15 | 185 | 822,532.20 |
| 125 | 3 | 16 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 126 | 3 | 17 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 127 | 3 | 18 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 128 | 3 | 19 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 129 | 3 | 20 | 185 | 822,532.20 |
| 130 | 4 | 1 | 214 | 951,469.68 |
| 131 | 4 | 2 | 208 | 924,792.96 |
| 132 | 4 | 11 | 152 | 675,810.24 |
| 133 | 4 | 18 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 134 | 4 | 22 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 135 | 5 | 4 | 252 | 1,120,422.24 |
| 136 | 6 | 3 | 175 | 778,071.00 |
| 137 | 6 | 4 | 165 | 733,609.80 |
| 138 | 6 | 5 | 165 | 733,609.80 |
| 139 | 6 | 9 | 166 | 738,055.92 |
| 140 | 7 | 4 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 141 | 7 | 7 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 142 | 9 | 19 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 143 | 9 | 21 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 144 | 10 | 1 | 223 | 991,484.76 |
| 145 | 10 | 2 | 200 | 889,224.00 |
| 146 | 10 | 3 | 200 | 889,224.00 |
| 147 | 10 | 4 | 208 | 924,792.96 |
| 148 | 10 | 5 | 264 | 1,173,775.68 |
| 149 | 10 | 6 | 252 | 1,120,422.24 |
| 150 | 10 | 7 | 313 | 1,391,635.56 |
| 151 | 10 | 8 | 249 | 1,107,083.88 |
| 152 | 10 | 9 | 238 | 1,058,176.56 |
| 153 | 10 | 10 | 227 | 1,009,269.24 |
| 154 | 10 | 11 | 215 | 955,915.80 |
| 155 | 10 | 12 | 203 | 902,562.36 |
| 156 | 10 | 13 | 169 | 751,394.28 |
| 157 | 10 | 14 | 189 | 840,316.68 |
| 158 | 10 | 15 | 239 | 1,062,622.68 |
| 159 | 10 | 16 | 258 | 1,147,098.96 |
| 160 | 10 | 17 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 161 | 10 | 18 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 162 | 10 | 19 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 163 | 10 | 20 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 164 | 10 | 21 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 165 | 10 | 22 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 166 | 10 | 23 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 167 | 10 | 24 | 225 | 1,000,377.00 |
| 168 | 10 | 25 | 259 | 1,151,545.08 |
| 169 | 11 | 2 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 170 | 11 | 3 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 171 | 11 | 4 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 172 | 11 | 5 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 173 | 11 | 6 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 174 | 11 | 7 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 175 | 11 | 8 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 176 | 11 | 18 | 249 | 1,107,083.88 |
| 177 | 13 | 10 | 201 | 893,670.12 |
| 178 | 13 | 12 | 150 | 666,918.00 |
| 179 | 13 | 14 | 150 | 666,918.00 |

**General Guidelines :**

1. The sale of the property shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.
2. All bids, whether in cash or installment, should not be lower than the corresponding minimum bid prices.
3. Terms of Payment.
   a.) For cash sale, the following discount rates apply :
   - 10% , spot cash
   - 6%, if paid in full within 30 days from signing of sales documents
   - 4%, if paid in full within 60 days from signing of sales documents
   - 2%, if paid in full within 90 days from signing of sales documents

   b.) For installment sale (discounts are not applicable):
   - Minimum down payment of 10% of contract price; balance payable over a maximum period of fifteen (15) years with interest rates of:
     - 6% for P300,000.00 and below
     - 9% for P300,001.00 – P2.0 Million
     - 12% for P2.0 Million above
4. The Purchase Proposal Form (PPF) can be secured from the office of the Asset Management Department (AMD) located at 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City starting October 22, 2007.
5. The PPF containing the bidder's bid should be dropped in the designated drop box located at the AMD Office. All bids received thereof shall be opened on the last working day of the week (every Friday) at 3:00 P.M. at the AMD Conference Room, 4th Floor, HGC Office.
6. Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the property before submitting their bids.
7. The award of the sale covering the properties shall be based on the **offer determined to be most advantageous to the Corporation.**

For inquiries, please call the Asset Management Department at Tel nos. 897-32-86 & 897-32-90 or visit our office at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

**RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS**
Head
Task Force for the Disposition
of Eagle Crest Villa Subdivision

(PDI–October 20, 2007)

**INVITATION TO BID**
*"AS IS WHERE IS"*
**Damaged Motor Vehicles**

2000 Honda Civic SIR / WJU-741
2005 Isuzu DMAX 4X2 M/T / ZBR-280
2003 Isuzu Crosswind XUV / XLR-575
2006 Toyota Hi-lux 4x4 / ZEC-220

For particulars, please call
**Philam Ins. Co., Inc.**
c/o Tristan Yoro & Arvin Calipjo
at **Tel. No. 815-30-00**

(PDI–Oct. 20 & 21, 2007)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
dti DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **MOLDEX REALTY INCORPORATED** with office address at **Moldex Building, No. 3 Ligaya Street corner West Avenue, Quezon City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Developer of Mass Housing Project (The Grand Towers)** with a capacity of **888 Low-cost/Economic Housing Units** with project/plant site located at **790 P. Ocampo Sr. Street (former Vito Cruz), Malate, Manila.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–October 20, 2007)

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB/UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED DUE TO THE TAKE OVER BY SBMA OF ITS LEASED PREMISES DESPITE WRIT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION DATED JUNE 12, 2007 ISSUED BY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 74 OLONGAPO CITY.

ANY TRANSACTION INVOLVING THE SALE OR LEASE OF THE PROPERTIES AND LEASED PREMISES OF SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC./UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SHALL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL CIVIL CASE NO. 456-0-06 RESOLVED WITH FINALITY.

**SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. /UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**(PDI--October 20, 2007)**

# Asia at risk, says Nobel-winning climate chief

TOKYO—THE HEAD OF A UN CLIMATE panel that shared the Nobel Peace Prize warned Friday that Asia was particularly vulnerable to global warming, with the continent set for more disasters unless action is taken.

Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, warned that fighting greenhouse gases entailed more than adopting new technologies, with individuals required to change their lifestyles.

"Asia being the rapidly growing continent with the largest share of the human population located over here, clearly vulnerabilities in Asia are going to be of importance," Pachauri told an environmental conference in Tokyo.

The Indian scientist said Asia risked floods and diminished access to fresh water and food supply if global warming continued unabated.

"Poor communities are, of course, at the highest risk," he said, explaining that they did not have the capacity to adapt to climate change.

"In the case of coastal areas, flooding of the residences of millions of people could take place in South, Southeast and East Asia."

He warned that the vital agricultural production of Asia's densely populated delta regions would be in jeopardy if temperatures kept rising.

Pachauri's panel, a network of 3,000 experts regarded as the world's top scientific authority on global warming, shared this year's Nobel Peace Prize with former US vice president turned environmental activist Al Gore.

Pachauri applauded the Nobel committee, which announced the award a week ago, for linking climate change to peace and stability in the world.

"I thought the Nobel Peace Prize committee has taken some of these factors into account," he said.

"We already have several areas of the world where there is intense competition for water resources. If these become more scarce, then the danger of conflict obviously will increase, substantially."

The brutal conflict in Darfur has sometimes been referred to as the world's first war triggered by climate change. UN statistics show that rainfall has diminished by 40 percent in the Sudanese region over the past two decades, causing drought and intense friction over access to the land. *AFP*

# Japan probes reported gang-rape by US Marines

TOKYO—POLICE IN JAPAN ARE INVESTIGATING allegations that four US Marines raped a 19-year-old Japanese woman, media and officials said, the latest episode to plague the US military's relations with local communities.

"I have received a report of a Japanese woman being raped by several men in the early morning of Oct. 14 in the city of Hiroshima," Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura told a news conference on Friday.

"The Hiroshima police are proceeding with the investigation in cooperation with US forces in Japan," he said. "Of course, if it is true it is unforgivable."

Public broadcaster NHK reported that four US Marines from Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station in southwest Japan had raped a 19-year-old woman in a car at a car park in nearby Hiroshima City after meeting her at an event hall.

The mayor of Iwakuni had suggested this week he was willing to discuss the expansion of the Marine base.

Major G.A. Canedo, public affairs officer at the base, said four Marines had been confined there.

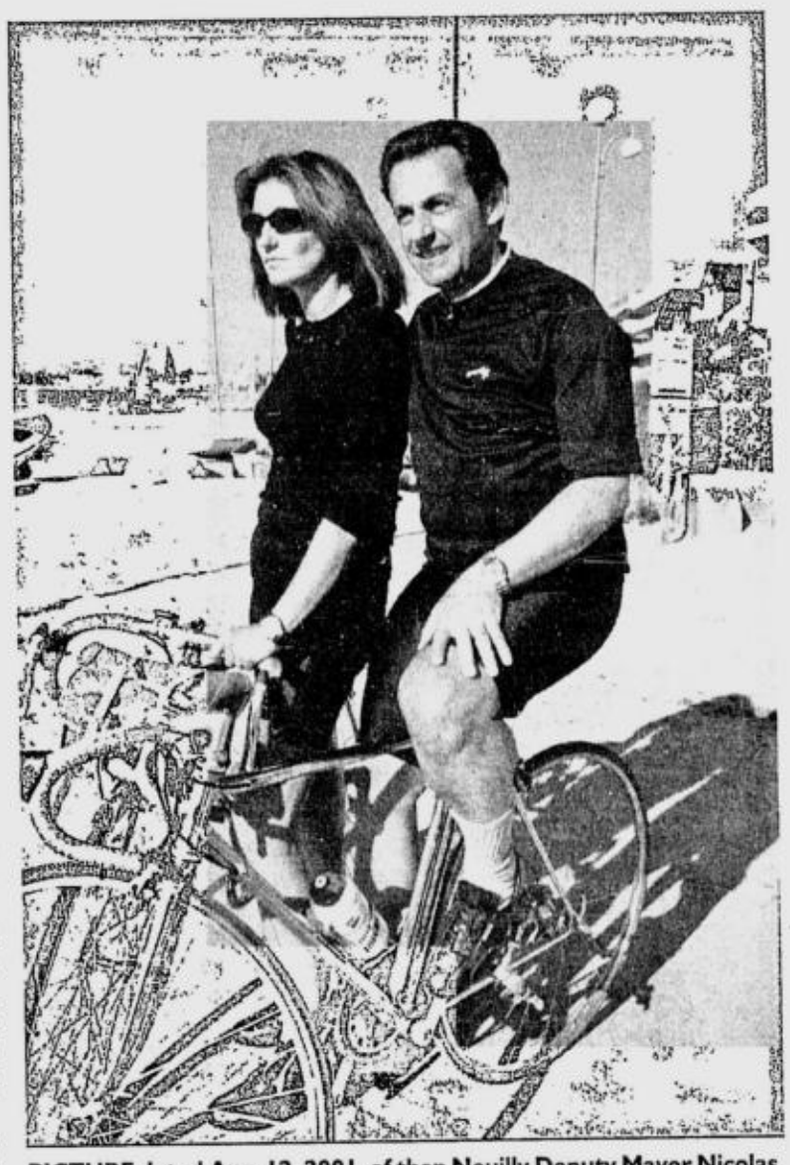
A US-Japan pact governing the conduct of US military personnel in Japan does not require the transfer of military suspects until they are charged, but Washington has agreed to favorably consider preindictment transfers in cases of suspected rape, murder and other heinous crimes.

Japan is host to about 50,000 US military personnel as part of the US-Japan security alliance. *Reuters*

# Cecilia Sarkozy admits falling in love with another man

PARIS—CECILIA SARKOZY ADMITTED Friday to falling in love with another man but insisted she and French President Nicolas Sarkozy had "tried everything" to avoid the divorce which has gripped the nation.

As the split made headlines around the world, the glamorous but single-minded 49-year-old ex-first lady told of her torment at being the president's wife in an interview with a regional newspaper.



**PICTURE dated Aug. 12, 2001, of then Neuilly Deputy Mayor Nicolas Sarkozy and wife Cecilia in La Baule, western France.** AFP

Explaining her prolonged absence since Sarkozy was elected in May, she said she preferred to be in "the shadows" and out of the public glare.

The day after the divorce by "mutual consent" was announced, Cecilia Sarkozy admitted to the l'Est Republicain she had "fallen in love" with another man in 2005 and went to live with him in New York.

However, she also insisted that she had returned with the intention of "trying to rebuild something," as her husband, a leading light of the right, stepped up his campaign to become France's head of state.

Sarkozy was the first divorcee to become French president and now the first to divorce while in office.

"What happened to me has happened to millions of people: One day you just don't have your place in the couple," Cecilia Sarkozy said in the interview.

"We tried to reconstruct, to rebuild, to put our family before everything else ... We tried everything, I tried everything. It simply was not possible."

Cecilia Sarkozy said she was not cut out to be a president's wife. "I had a husband who was a public man, I always knew that, I accompanied him for 20 years."

"But this is not for me. It is no longer for me," she said, describing herself as "someone who prefers the shadows, serenity, tranquility."

The couple had one child together. *AFP*

# Joey Bishop, last of the Rat Pack, dies at 89

LOS ANGELES—JOEY BISHOP, THE DEADpan comedian, TV host and last of the super-hip team of performers known as the Rat Pack, led by Frank Sinatra, has died at age 89, his publicist said on Thursday.

Bishop, born Joseph Abraham Gottlieb on Feb. 3, 1918, in the Bronx, died on Wednesday night at his home in Newport Beach, south of Los Angeles, following an illness of several months, publicist Warren Cowan said.

**BISHOP** REUTERS

The self-styled "mouse" of the Rat Pack, Bishop was part of an iconic group of entertainers, including Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Peter Lawford, who came to epitomize the freewheeling cool of the late 1950s and early '60s.

With Sinatra's death in 1998, Bishop was the last surviving member of that group, which performed together as a legendary Las Vegas nightclub act and in such films as "Some Came Running," "Ocean's Eleven" and "Sergeant's 3."

Fellow comic Don Rickles remembered his glum-faced contemporary's distinct "attitude" and said he was "a great innovator when it came to comedy."

Raised in Philadelphia, Bishop started out in vaudeville and performed with a comic trio called the Bishop Brothers, a name he ultimately kept for himself, before serving in the Army during World War II. *Reuters*

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Republic of the Philippines
**SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM**
Makati City

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Petitioner,
-versus-
ZENAIDA M. POOT,
Respondent.
SSC Case No. 9-17236-06

x----------x

## SUMMONS

To : MADAM ZENAIDA M. POOT

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of announcement of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Bldg., 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your Answer to the petition filed by the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, which in substance claims that you failed/refused and still fails and refuses to remit the premium contributions of your employee for the period from February 2000 to January 2004 in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Pesos (P6,693.00) plus penalties computed as of February 2006, in the amount of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Two Pesos and 36/100 (P9,572.36), pursuant to Section 22(a) of the Social Security Act.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner thru its counsel, Atty. Ma. Charissa M. Oliver-Velasco of SSS Naga City Branch Office. SSS Bldg., Concepcion Pequena, Naga City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, September 20, 2007.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Oct. 20, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Region VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Fax No. (053) 323-8601

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

For the Procurement of Plastic Containers in NFA Region VIII

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its Corporate Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum of being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the procurement contract of Plastic Containers intended for the Food for School Program of NFA-DepED and DSWD in Region VIII for the school year 2008-2009. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders to supply the required Plastic Containers of NFA Region VIII with the following information and specifications:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Plastic Material* | : | *Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)* |
| *Capacity* | : | *1 kg rice* |
| *Length* | : | *10 inches* |
| *Width* | : | *6-1/2 inches* |
| *Thickness* | : | *0.05 mm* |
| *Skirt (Seam)* | : | *8 mm* |

Initial delivery of the GOODS is required within Ten (10) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed and the balance can be made on a staggared basis. Summary of quantity and total amount of ABC follows.

| Lot No. | NFA Prov. Office | QUANTITY (More or Less) | UNIT | ABC per unit | * Total amount of ABC (More or Less) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | So. Leyte | 600,000 | Piece | P 0.66 | P 396,000.00 |
| 2. | Biliran | 500,000 | Piece | P 0.66 | P 330,000.00 |
| 3. | W. Samar | 350,000 | Piece | P 0.66 | P 231,000.00 |
| 4. | N. Samar | 1,000,000 | Piece | P 0.66 | P 660,000.00 |
| 5. | E. Samar | 610,000.00 | Piece | P 0.66 | P 402,600.00 |
| | TOTAL | 3,060,000 | | | P 2,019,600.00 |

**The bidders may bid for as many lots as he is interested.**
*** Inclusive of VAT**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (telephone number: (053) 323-4240 fax number: (053) 323-8601) and inspect the Bidding Documents at NFA, Pawing, Palo, Leyte starting ***October 23-31, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)*** in cash per lot.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***November 6, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** at *NFA Auditorium Lobby Pawing Palo, Leyte.*

Bids & eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening on ***November 19, 2007 @ 09:00 AM at NFA Auditorium Lobby, Pawing Palo, Leyte.*** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof: Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City) – One percent (1%); or Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand" – Two & half percent (2.5%). Late Bids shall not be accepted. The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI – October 20, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**
**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**
Camp Crame, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Philippine National Police (PNP)** invites all PhilGEPS-accredited suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

| Item/Description | Approved Budget Contract | Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable) | Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. **PUBLIC BIDDING NO: PNP-07-001G** | | | November 6, 2007 9:00 AM |
| 145 units motorcyle 200cc | 26,825,000.00 | 27,000.00 | |
| 2. **PUBLIC BIDDING NO: PNP-07-002G** | | | |
| 5000 units 9mm Pistol | 115,000,000.00 | 115,000.00 | |
| 3. **PUBLIC BIDDING NO: PNP-07-003G** | | | |
| 900 units VHF Handheld Radio & accessories | 5,850,000.00 | 6,000.00 | |
| 100 units VHF Base Radio & accessories | 1,652,500.00 | 2,000.00 | |
| 213 units VHF Mobile Radio & accessories | 2,449,500.00 | 3,000.00 | |

Bid documents shall be available at the **BAC Secretariat, Office of the Directorate for Logistics**, NHQ-PNP Building, Camp Crame, Quezon City starting October 20, 2007 to interested bidders upon payment of the non-refundable amount indicated above. The pre-bid conference shall be held at the **PNP Ante Room, 3rd Floor NHQ-PNP Building, Camp Crame, Quezon City on October 25, 2007 at 10 in the morning.**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the **PNP Ante Room, 3rd Floor, NHQ-PNP Camp Crame, Quezon City.**

For more information, please contact the NHQ-BAC Secretariat at telephone number at **722-0665.**

The PNP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitaton. The PNP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not to award any contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) REYNALDO P VARILLA
Police Deputy Director General
TDCO/Chairman, NHQ-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 20, 2007)

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## LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

## INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH and "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:**

| Item No. | PROPERTY DESCRIPTION | LOCATION | MINIMUM BID PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 contiguous lots with TA: 8,449 sq.m with 5 storey hotel bldg w/ annex/ extension basement and penthouse | Europa Center Legarda Road, Baguio City | P563,567,000.00 |
| 2 | 500 parcels of res'l lots to be sold as one (1) lot w/ TA: 87,667 sq.m | Pasadena Heights Subd., Brgy. Manggahan, Gen. Trias, Cavite | P140,267,200.00 |
| 3 | 2 parcels of ind'l lots w/ TA: 6,795 sq.m with the ff improvements: warehouse, 2 storey office bldg, townhouse, 1-storey res'l bldg, basketball court and pier deck | No. 9126 Sultana St. Brgy. Olympia, Makati City | P138,390,000.00 |

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received by the Special Assets Department (SPAD), 30th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila on **November 7, 2007,** not later than **9:30 am.**

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting October 22, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on October 25, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 30th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as the legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645.

**Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.**

**HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL**

(PDI–October 20, 2007)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Putin attacks US, announces new A-bomb

MOSCOW—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin on Thursday chastised the United States over its policy in Iraq and Iran, and announced "grandiose" military plans, including development of a new nuclear weapon.

Putin, who is to step down at the end of his second term next year, also said he wanted the ruling United Russia party to preserve his policies after December parliamentary elections, confirming that he wants to retain major political influence after leaving office.

In a nationally broadcast link-up with ordinary Russians across the country, Putin called the US intervention in Iraq a "dead end" and called on Washington to set a deadline for the withdrawal of troops.

Putin suggested that Iraq had been invaded because of its oil wealth and assured one caller that energy-rich Russia could not suffer the same fate. To think so, he said, was "political erotica."

The White House quickly rebuffed Putin's comments, insisting there was a "good trend" in Iraq.

The hawkish Russian leader also swiped at Washington's tough stand on Iran's nuclear power program, saying Moscow's insistence on negotiations was better than "threats, sanctions or even force."

In a video link-up with servicemen at the Plesetsk nuclear missile base, Putin said that Russia would build another nuclear submarine next year and was also planning a "completely new" atomic weapon.

"We have grandiose plans and they are absolutely realistic," Putin said, speaking hours after the military announced the successful test firing of a Topol intercontinental ballistic missile.

Putin's sixth phone-in during eight years in power came in for particular scrutiny for clues to Putin's future political career after December parliamentary and March presidential elections.

Putin, 55, has left the world guessing about what he will do after the March election, in which he is barred by the constitution from seeking a third consecutive term.

The former KGB officer who came to power in 2000 repeated that he will step down, saying "there will be another person here in the Kremlin in 2008."

He confirmed that he would campaign for the United Russia party in the parliamentary election, saying this party's victory would ensure that his policies over the last eight years continued. *AFP*

PUTIN AFP

TheCAPITAL Towers
Your own big space

Discover Your Own Big Space

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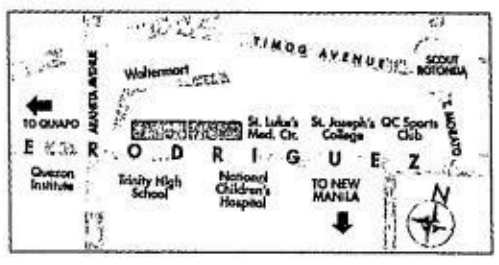


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## US students healthier as junk food is discarded

WASHINGTON—IT IS HARDER TO FIND A french fry in an American school cafeteria these days, and junk food is less common at school fund-raisers, a federal study out Friday has found.

But when it comes to encouraging healthy habits, US schools still are not at the head of the class.

About 19 percent of schools served french fries to students in 2006, down from 40 percent six years earlier, according to the study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The percentage of schools that sold cookies or other high-fat baked goods at fundraisers dropped from 67 percent to 54 percent during the six-year period.

And in nearly half of schools, students can select bottled water instead of sugary drinks from school vending machines or snack bars, up from nearly a third of schools in 2000.

Public health officials are cautiously optimistic about the changes.

"We're not satisfied. We still have a long, long way to go, but it is encouraging," said Howell Wechsler, director of the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health.

About 90 percent of districts require physical education in all schools. The figure has risen in recent years at the elementary-school level.

Still, in most schools, it is rare for kids to get daily physical education. About two-thirds of elementary schools provide daily recess.

Students need daily exercise, said Jan Harp Domene, president of the national PTA. "Kids that learn this at an early age will practice this into adulthood," she said. "We are growing a whole generation of couch potatoes."

About one-third of US children are overweight, and 17 percent are obese—figures that have been rising. *AP*

## UN launches International Year of Potato

UNITED NATIONS—ON WORLD FOOD DAY, the United Nations launched the International Year of the Potato which will spotlight the humble vegetable discovered in Peru that has become a staple in diets around the globe and the world's fourth largest source of food.

The year-long homage to the potato will take place in 2008 but there was a preview Thursday with a display of several dozen varieties and some samples of potato chips and cooked spuds.

Peru's Agriculture Minister Ismael Benavides said the International Year of the Potato is especially important for Peruvians because potatoes were discovered in the Andes mountains "and then became a worldwide crop."

The Spanish conquistadors took potatoes home and farmers in southern Spain started growing them, he said. Over the course of several hundred years, potatoes became popular across Europe and in many countries around the world.

"In most places, potato is eaten by poor people," said Jacques Diouf, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "Through increased productivity, the developing countries have doubled their production in 15 years."

Diouf said the potato is the fourth largest source of food for the world behind rice, wheat and maize.

He said 350 million tons of potatoes are produced annually, 52 percent in developing countries.

"The potato trade represented $6 billion in 2005," he said. "This trade has doubled in volume and has risen fourfold since the mid-1980s. So it's a growing product in terms of its impact."

While potato production declined in developed countries by around one percent over the last 20 years, it increased by about five percent in developing countries over the same period, Diouf said.

The major source of growth has been in Asia, primarily in China and in India, he said. *AP*

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
*Assistant Editor* **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

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# SPORTS

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THE RP-Cebuana cagebelles, including crack Fil-Am Vicky Brick (front row, right), celebrate their march to the finals with members of the Filipino community in Phuket.

# RP, Thailand collide for Seaba crown

By Beth Celis

PHUKET, THAILAND—IT WAS THE homegrown talents' turn to shine on Friday as Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier repeated over Indonesia, 72-47, and barged into the finals of the Southeast Asia Basketball (Seaba) Championship at the Saphan Hin gym here.

Diane Jose poured 12 of his team-high 17 points in the first half to lead the Filipinos to their fifth straight win and to the title showdown with the Thais at 4 p.m. (5 p.m. in Manila) on Saturday.

The Thais also asserted their supremacy over the Malaysians, 86-80, in the other semifinal to arrange a grudge match against the Filipinos, who bested them, 80-76, Monday night.

With Fil-Am Vicky Brick, the Nationals' top gunner playing just 11 minutes to give her a much-needed rest, Jose was supported by Dixie Villanueva and Pixie Valencia with 10 points each.

The Filipinos, mentored by Fritz Gaston, also trounced the Indonesians, 70-54, in their first encounter on Tuesday.

Brick played hero for RP-Cebuana Lhuillier on Thursday, sinking a tight short jumper with nine seconds left that lifted the Filipinos to a 67-65 squeaker over the Malaysians, the reigning Southeast Asian Games titlists.

Honing up for the Thailand SEAG, the Filipinos stormed ahead, 12-1, after just five minutes of play and preserved that spread at halftime, 39-28.

The Malaysians, however, regained their bearing in the third quarter behind the shooting of the prolific Chow Siao Fong and Pee Yann Yann and threatened at 50-51 at the end of the quarter.

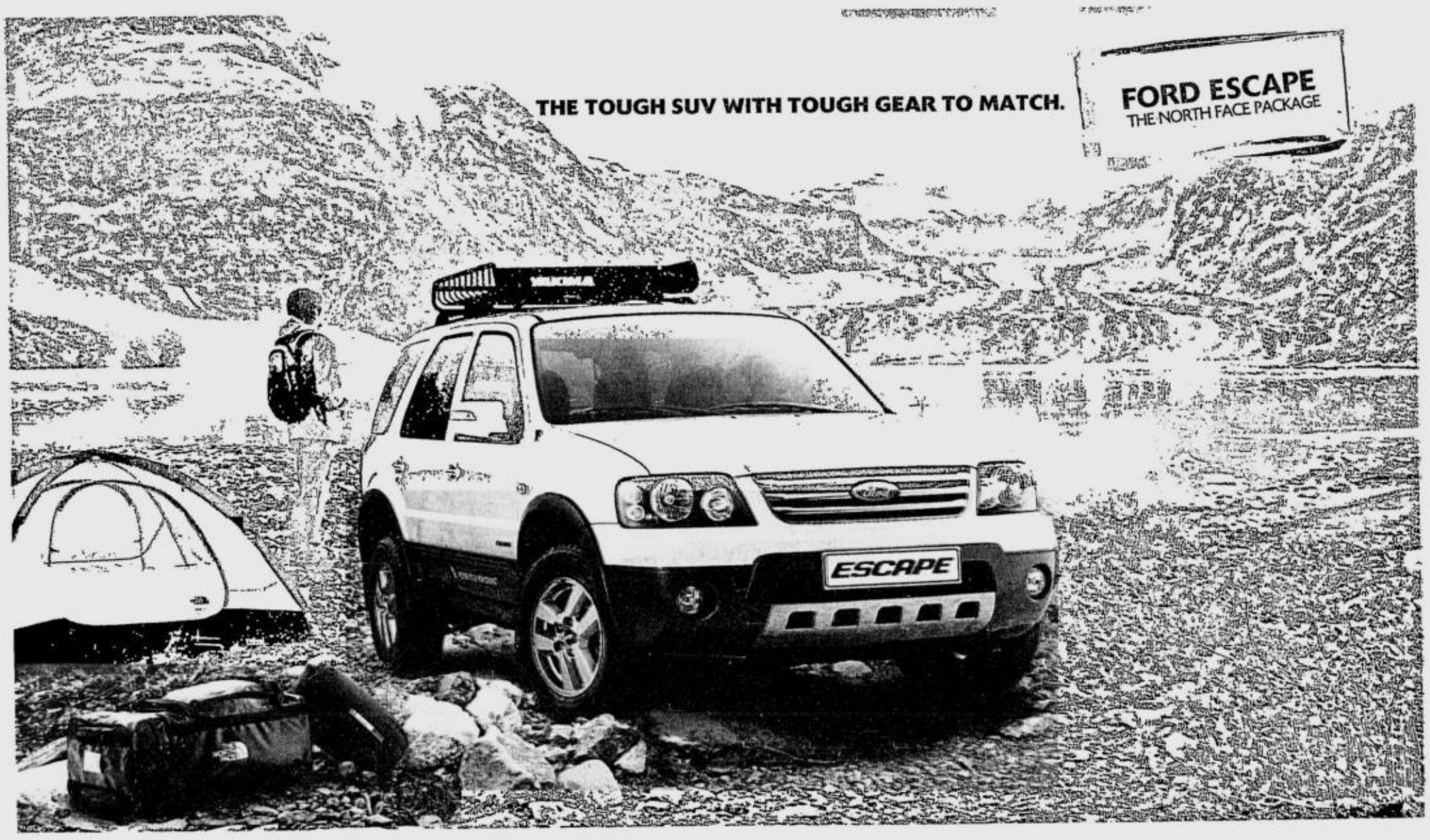
With the score tied at 60 and time down to 1 minute and 40 seconds, Vega was hit with a punch on her breadbasket by Chow after a wild scramble for the ball.

The referees ejected Chow from the game and awarded two free throws to Vega, who sank both for a 62-60 count.

Joan Grajales then fired a triple to up the Filipinos' lead, 65-60. The Malaysians tied the score for the last time at 65.

Brick led the Filipinos with 13 points, followed by Narciza with 10 and Vega with 9.

The Filipinos swept the eliminations with 4 wins and no loss followed by Thailand at 3-1, Malaysia at 2-2 and Indonesia at 1-3.



ALCANO: Chasing 3rd title

# Alcano upends Bata; Parica thwarts Django

DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPION RONNIE Alcano remained on track for his third straight major title with a roller-coaster 11-7 victory over compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes late Thursday in the 32nd US Open at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake, Virginia.

In another featured all-Filipino duel, veteran Jose "Amang" Parica stunned Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 11-8. Parica, already 61, will next face Tyler Edey, who stunned former world champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 11-8.

The 34-year-old Alcano, the reigning world 8-ball and 9-ball champion, jumped the gun on his idol, taking a quick 2-0 lead.

But Reyes, still sharp at 53, took the next three racks to set the tone for the see-saw affair. Alcano returned to the table in the sixth frame and stayed there until the 10th to take command anew, 6-3.

The tide took another turn as the 1994 US Open titlist Reyes cleaned up the 10th and ran out the next three for a 7-6 lead.

Unfazed, the lanky Alcano took the next five racks to earn the right to face countryman and current US Bar Table 9-ball and 8-ball champion Warren Kiamco.

Kiamco advanced by besting Lee Vann Corteza, 11-6.

Another Filipino is certain to fall, though, as the winner of the Parica-Edey tussle is slated to face the winner of the Alcano-Kiamco encounter. However, all the Filipino masters will get a second chance as the event offering $50,000 to the champion uses the double-elimination format.

Dennis Orcollo, the 2007 Billiards Congress of America Enjoypool 9-ball winner, trounced Tony Crosby, 11-4, to march into the fifth round winners' bracket against James Walden, who edged last year's runner-up Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, 11-10.

Filipino Ramil Gallego knocked out Filipino-Canadian Edwin Montal, 11-8, to stay alive in the losers' bracket.

Gallego, who dropped his opening round match, won his second and third knockout game at the expense of Paddy McLaughlin, 11-5, and Paul Pottier, 11-8. He will face Dave Bolmann in the next round.

Other matches saw Mike Dechaine of the United States beat Fabio Petroni of Italy, 11-5, and forge a duel with 2005 US Open titlist Alex Pagulayan in the one-loss side.

*Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# Pucay, Sumcad zoom into lead

By Musong R. Castillo

**LIPA CITY—WITH OVERNIGHT LEADER Artemio Murakami nursing a fever, Mars Pucay and Orlan Sumcad fired under-par cards yesterday and zoomed to the top of the leaderboard heading into the final 18 holes of the Asean Tour's $30,000 (about P1.35 million) Philippine leg at the Malarayat Golf and Country Club here.**

Pucay shot five birdies in a three-under 69, while Sumcad smoked the Malarayat's front nine here with an eagle-spiked 32 before settling for a 71 to share the lead with four-under 212 totals, just a stroke clear of two amateurs.

Jay Bayron and Ferdinand Aunzo fired a 68 and a 69, respectively, to share third with 213 totals.

The ailing Murakami, who started the day a shot ahead of Sumcad, floundered with a 74 and tumbled to a share of fifth place with Rey Pagunsan at 214, two shots behind the co-leaders. Pagunsan returned a 70.

Canlubang ace Bayron will be in the final flight with Sumcad and Pucay, whose two bogeys came from three-putts. Aunzo, the 28-year-old former caddy at Eastridge, joins Pagunsan and Murakami in the preceding group.

Joenard Rates shot a 69 and moved within three shots of the lead at 215, while Ibarra Quiachon, Thai Namchok Tantipokhakul and Jherome Delariarte were a further two strokes back after a 69, a 73 and a 70, in that order.

Sumcad, the long-hitting Malarayat pro, highlighted a scorching front nine with an eagle on the par-5 514-yard ninth hole, where he landed a gap wedge from 145 yards to within 12 feet.

He slowed down coming home, dropping a shot on No. 10, before signing for a double bogey 5 on No. 15 and going back to level with another bogey in the next hole after missing the green.

"I don't think I will be pressured playing in the final flight tomorrow (today)," Sumcad, 34, said in Filipino. "I've played (the final flight) before, and I know now how to keep my nerves."

Sumcad, a former caddy at the Binitin in Bacolod, lost in a playoff to Rey Pagunsan last year in a PGAP tournament in Aguinaldo.

First round leader Nakul Vichittryuthasastr continued his slide, shooting a 76 to be at 218.

**The top 20 scores:**
212—O Sumcad 70-71-71, M. Pucay 71-72-69, 213—J. Bayron (A) 73-72-68, F. Aunzo (A) 71-73-69, 214—R. Pagunsan 75-69-70, A. Murakami 71-69-74; 215—J. Rates 73-73-69; 217—I. Quiachon 74-74-69, J. Delariarte 71-76-70, N. Tantipokhakul 73-71-73; 218—R. Sangil (A) 72-75-71, R. Jamnong (Tha) 70-75-73, M. Sasidaran (Mal) 73-72-73, A. Lascuna 72-72-74, R. Bisera 74-69-75, N. Vichittryuthasastr (Tha) 68-74-76; 219—P. Miñoza 77-73-69, R. Sinfuego 71-77-71, A. Que 72-76-71, M. Bibat (A) 75-72-72.

FIVE birdies against two bogeys catapult Mars Pucay into the lead.

# Coffee Kings test Medics as PBL tilt fires off

By Jasmine W. Payo

YOUTH WON'T BE A BARRIER FOR PHAREX AS the league newcomer tests its mettle against the seasoned San Mig Coffee at the start of the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today at The Arena in San Juan.

The tipoff is set at 2 p.m., after the opening ceremonies at 1 p.m. Newly elected PBL chair Cecilio Pedro of Hapee Toothpaste will welcome the teams while San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito will lead the ceremonial toss.

Collegiate stars will also banner the Toyota Balintawak Road Kings and Bacchus Energy Raiders when they collide in the second game at 4 p.m.

**GAMES TODAY**
**(*The Arena, San Juan*)**
1 p.m.—Opening Ceremonies
2 p.m.—Pharex vs San Mig Coffee
4 p.m.—Bacchus vs Toyota Balintawak

"We'll definitely run and look to share the ball more often," said Pharex coach Gian Carlo Tan. "Let the other teams adjust to our speed in the same manner that we have to adjust to their size."

Pharex assembled a mix of varsity stars and veterans led by high-leaping Elmer Espiritu of the University of the East and Mapua swingman Sean Co.

The Coffee Kings, with Koy Banal at the helm, will anchor their campaign on Ateneo stalwart Ford Arao and NCAA Most Valuable Player Kelvin dela Peña.

"The good thing in this conference is that the field is pretty balanced," said Road Kings mentor Ariel Vanguardia, citing the exodus of league stars to the all-amateur Philippine squad.

La Salle's UAAP Finals co-MVPs JV Casio and Cholo Villanueva, as well as Letran standout Rafael Jazul spearhead the Road King's campaign.

Bacchus coach Lawrence Chongson said they had less than a month's practice as a team.

"The players are not yet familiar with each other," said Chongson, who recently tapped UE mainstays James Martinez, Hans Thiele, Mark Fampulme and Pari Llagas.

## Catubay battles Darchinyan today, aims to become RP's 5th world champ

FILIPINO FEDERICO CATUBAY WILL ATtempt to become the country's fifth reigning world titleholder today when he faces Australia's Vic Darchinyan for the vacant IBO superflyweight title at the Auburn RSL Club in Auburn, New South Wales, in Australia.

If successful in today's battle, Catubay (20-13-3, 11 KOs) will join the ranks of IBF minimumweight champion Florante Condes, IBF/IBO flyweight champ Nonito Donaire Jr., WBO bantam king Gerry Peñalosa and WBO minimumweight ruler Donnie Nietes.

It will be an uphill climb, though, for the former Philippine flyweight champion Catubay, who fights out of Cebu.

"I want to put on a good fight," said Darchinyan (28-1, 22 KOs) at the recent press conference for the fight. "I've shown my respect here today to Federico. He says he's going to knock me out in round one. His talk only motivates me more."

Catubay earlier said he knew about the Darchinyan's weaknesses which manifested during the Aussie's fight with Donaire.

"I am going to retire him," Catubay told the Inquirer before flying to Australia with manager Sammy Gello-ani.

*Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

## Intercollegiate golf under way

FORMER JUNIOR STANDOUTS ANTONIO Asistio and Miko Yee cross paths anew as golfers from seven schools mix it up in the National Intercollegiate Golf 2007, the much-awaited revival of the competition for graduates of the junior golf ranks, starting today at the Splendido Taal Golf Club in Tagaytay.

Asistio will lead University of Santo Tomas' bid while Yee is at the helm of the La Salle campaign in the kickoff leg of monthly skirmishes among collegiate players made possible by the Philippine Golf Foundation.

The PGF is itself reactivating its support for the promotion of the sport through the Intercollegiate by providing funding that guarantees free play for all the participants.

Aside from UST and La Salle, also entered are Ateneo, College of St. Benilde, University of the Philippines, University of the East and University of Asia and the Pacific.

**WBL KICKS OFF: Junior cagebelles from De la Salle Lipa and Assumption play a key match in last year's Women's Basketball League. The Milo-sponsored, BEST Center-organized cagefest kicks off today at Xavier School in San Juan with more than 30 teams entered in the elementary, high school and college divisions. Rolando Omampo is the tournament commissioner.**

## SPORTSWATCH

### NBC-Spring cagers join Penang Cup invitationals

NBC-SPRING COOKING OIL FLIES TO Malaysia this morning to compete in the 2007 Penang Chief Minister Cup-Asian basketball invitationals starting today.

Backed by Spring team owner Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and outfitted by Champion Sportswear, the Filipinos will see action against national teams from Thailand, India, Singapore and Malaysia, Iran's national youth squad, China Basketball League's Tianjin and Indonesia Basketball League titlist Satria Muda.

Former national coach Boysie Zamar will handle the NBC-Spring squad, with Efren "Yong" Garcia assisting him.

The NBC-Spring team is composed of Marlon Kalaw, Mar Reyes, Dondon Villamin, Ariel de Castro, Jeff Tajonera, Nani Epondulan and ex-pros Niño Marquez, Marlon Legaspi, EJ Feihl, Nelson Asaytono and Danny Capobres.

### NCFP executives tourney

NATIONAL CHESS FEDERATION OF THE Philippines (NCFP) executive director Samuel Estimo announced the holding of the 5th leg of the NCFP Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge at 10 a.m., today at the Boracay Clubhouse along 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City.

Estimo, a two-time Olympian, won the first two legs of the event open to professional and executive chess players. The champion of the event backed by Tawhay Boracay Resort Condos will receive a certificate for a two-night stay for two persons at a Boracay resort. The second to fifth placers will win appliances and slots to the Grand Finals to be held early next year.

### NB event to raise funds

NEW BALANCE WILL HOLD THE RAISING Hope walk-jog-run event on Oct. 21, 6 a.m. at the Rockwell Center in Makati City. A P100 registration will be requested from participants to raise funds for the Carewell Foundation, the Cancer Resource and Wellness Community.

The last day for registration to the New Balance Power Race: The Next Level!" which will be held in Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga on Nov. 11. For details, log on to www.newbalance.com.ph or call Mary Anne Oriondo at 8981933 to 42.

### 3 champs in PCAP stagfest

THREE ENTRIES—VICTORIA PEAK WTJ of Richard Bates, BTR of Mayor Bunoy Ramos and PRE Lion Wings of Milky Way group—topped the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby last Monday at the Makati Coliseum.

Each entry posted 5-win, 0-loss slates to rule the fifth leg.

The PCAP Stagfighter of the Year winner will be known when the Grand Championship 5-stag derby blasts off on Monday.

### 130 fights in SJC derby

THE ANNUAL CYBERFRIENDS 4-STAG derby, a gathering of upcoming cockers and breeders, kicks off at San Juan Coliseum today with 130 fights scheduled.

Eight to nine fights per hour will be unleashed due to the big number of fights, said pit manager Renato Shio.

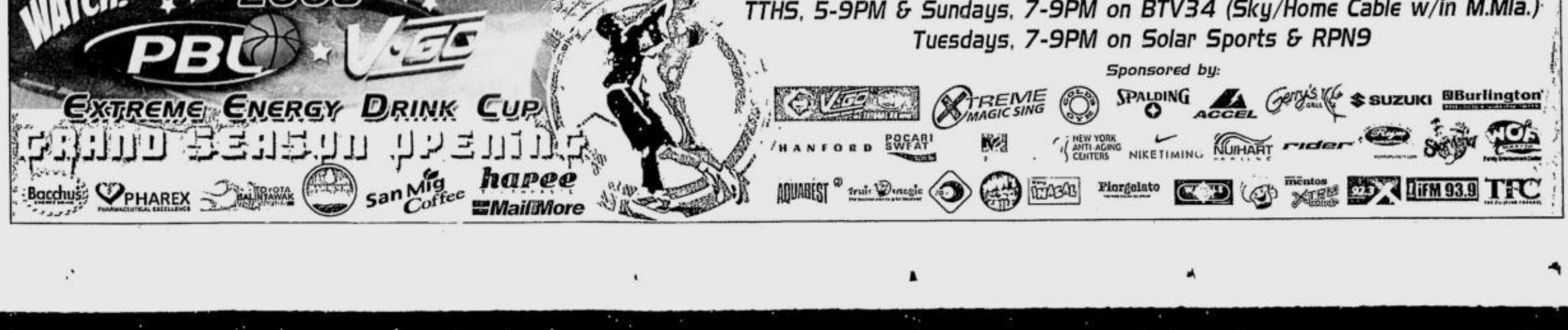
Last Saturday, a total of 176 matches spiced up the final round of SM Farms Open 6-stag derby, won by Rep. Gerry Espina, Roberto Vallentes and R. Pineda.

### Tayo Na Sa Antipolo tilt

THE BIGGEST STAG FIGHTING EVENT IN the province of Rizal takes center stage today at the new Blue Mountain Sports Arena with more than 300 entries seeing action.

Hosted by lawyer Joey "Tagapo" Mendoza, the contest is dubbed as the Tayo Na Sa Antipolo 6-Stag Derby with a whopping P2 million as guaranteed cash prize.

Participants include PCAP Cocker of the Year Biboy Enriquez of Firebird Farm.



# Karatekas boost QC gold haul in POF

By June Navarro

QUEZON CITY BAGGED FOUR GOLD medals in karatedo while turning to the hero of the recent Milo Little Olympics in table tennis to retain the overall lead in Day 3 of the Philippine Olympic Festival-National Capital Region qualifying leg yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Chloe Adrianne Villasis launched Quezon City's golden foray in the 8-9 years old category of the kata that set the tone for Joyce Ann del Ayre (10-11 years old), Elsha Bertillo (12-13) and Raquel Luzaras (14-15) to rule their respective divisions in the same event.

Michael Rodolfo, the Most Outstanding Athlete in the recent Little Olympics, snatched QC's fifth gold of the day by defeating Jovani Cabanatan of Marikina City, 11-9, 11-8, 11-5, in the 17-and-under category of boys' table tennis.

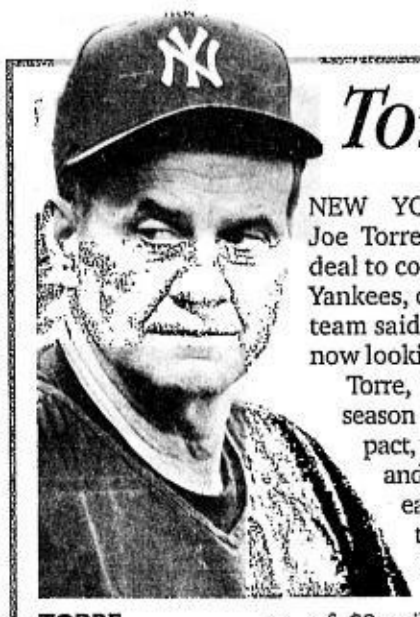
"It was a close match but I was lucky to get the breaks on the first two sets," said the 16-year-old Rodolfo, a member of the NCR team, which copped bronze in the 2007 Palarong Pambansa in Koronadal City.

The high school senior from St. John of Beverly in Novaliches roughed up Pasig City's Paolo Baranda, 11-3, 11-2, 11-5, in the semifinal to arrange that finals match opposite Cabanatan.

Combining the efforts of Rodolfo and the karatekas, Quezon City increased its medal collection with 37 golds, 24 silvers and 19 bronzes.

Manila's haul of 26 gold medals, 21 silvers and 28 bronzes was good for second.

# *Torre ends 12-season stint with Yankees*



TORRE AP

NEW YORK—LONG-TIME MANAGER Joe Torre has turned down a one-year deal to come back and lead the New York Yankees, officials of the American League team said on Thursday, adding they were now looking for a new manager.

Torre, who made over $7 million last season in the last year of a three-year pact, was offered base pay of $5 million and a $1 million bonus for reaching each successive round of playoffs, team president Randy Levine told a conference call.

That would have meant a total of $8 million should the club reach the World Series.

"Joe Torre turned that offer down today," said Levine, who added there was an option for Torre to return for another season at $8 million if the club got to the 2008 World Series.

"We respect his decision, but it's now time for the New York Yankees to move forward."

Torre, 67, was not immediately available for comment.

Torre steered the Yankees to the playoffs in each of his 12 seasons at the helm. His teams won four World Series titles, but had not claimed the championship since 2000.

"The goal of this franchise is to win the World Series," Levine said about the club that has won a record 26 Major League Baseball crowns.

"Unfortunately, we have not met that goal for seven years. It's nobody's fault, not one person's fault we didn't win the World Series. It's collectively all our fault."

Levine said Torre flew down to Tampa, Florida, on Thursday morning to meet with the Yankees hierarchy.

Torre last season made more than double the next highest paid manager in the major leagues, Lou Piniella of the Chicago Cubs at $3.5 million. *Reuters*

# Red Sox stay alive

**CLEVELAND—BACK TO BOSTON they go. Just the Red Sox being the Red Sox.**

Josh Beckett, blocking out everything but Jason Varitek's target, dominated the Cleveland Indians for the second time and Manny Ramirez drove in the go-ahead run with a 390-foot single as the Red Sox stayed alive in the AL championship series with a 7-1 win Thursday night in Game 5.

Kevin Youkilis set the tone with a first-inning homer off CC Sabathia. The Red Sox, trailing 3-2, sent the best-of-seven series back to Fenway Park to continue a season that was on the brink of being canned for the cold New England winter.

The Red Sox—and Beckett—have done this before. And clearly, Ramirez & Co. cared.

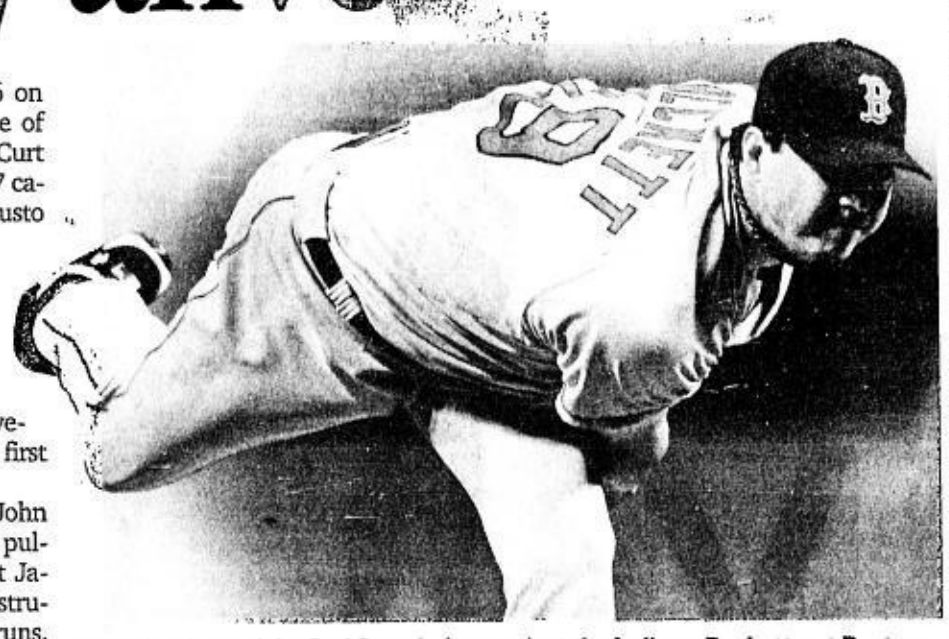
In 2004, Boston rallied from an 0-3 deficit to win the 2004 ALCS against the New York Yankees and went on to sweep the St. Louis Cardinals in four straight for its first title since 1918.

The Red Sox forced a Game 6 on Saturday night, and will start one of October's brightest stars, Curt Schilling, who has 9-3 record in 17 career postseason starts, against Fausto Carmona.

Beckett, the calm, cool and cocky 20-game winner, ignored a shrilling crowd, some chirping from Indians outfielder Kenny Lofton and even the appearance of an old girlfriend to deny Cleveland fans a chance to see their first pennant-clinching win at home.

In the late innings, drummer John Adams, whose tom-tom beat has pulsated through a special season at Jacobs Field, slumped against his instrument as the Red Sox tacked on runs. Meanwhile, in the Boston bullpen, two relievers used water bottles to playfully bang on backup catcher Doug Mirabelli's shinguards.

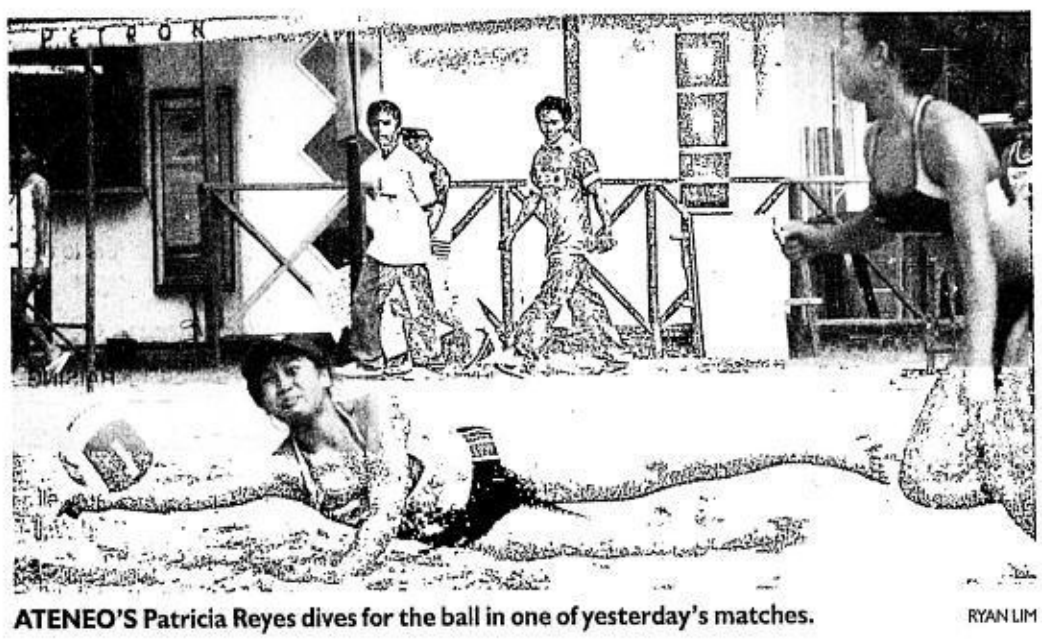
Beckett, 27, who beat Cleveland in the opener, once again came through with the stakes at their highest.



**JOSH Beckett of the Red Sox pitches against the Indians. Beckett put Boston on his shoulders and staved off Cleveland's attempts to end the series.** AFP

Beckett, who with each start carves his name deeper among the postseason pitching elite, is no stranger to comebacks.

In 2003, he pitched a two-hitter for Florida in Game 5 of the NLCS as the Marlins rallied from a 3-1 deficit to eliminate the Chicago Cubs. *AP*



**ATENEO'S Patricia Reyes dives for the ball in one of yesterday's matches.** RYAN LIM

# Coach, partner grab Petron beach volley Group A lead

SUBIC BAY—VARSITY COACH SHERYL Laborte and partner Jenny Torres survived a close encounter with rivals Sheena Rose Teves and Lourdes Patillano yesterday at start of the 2007 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament Battle of Champions at the sand-courts of the Subic Bay Freeport Boardwalk.

Nearly bothered by the northerly winds blowing across Waterfront Beach, Laborte and Torres eked out a scrambling 21-19 triumph in one of the day's opening matches.

Laborte, who won the 2006 Battle of Champions with sister Michelle, and Torres, who hails from Bacolod, took the early Group A leadership with their victory.

They were joined by Olivarez College standouts Rowena Felices and Roseanne Mercado, who prevailed over Angel Tio Cuison and Patricia Reyes of Ateneo, 21-6. Asian College of Science and Technology pair Mary Anne Calleja and Apple Sebastian came from behind to stop PSBA teammates Jessica Ticala and Mary Natividad, 21-18.

When Teves and Patillano came close at 13-14, the 24-year-old Laborte, who coaches Miriam College, momentarily found her form with Torres. Unmindful of the sand which blew into her left eye, Laborte dished out a smash from the net, while Torres unloaded an ace to grab a 17-14 edge.

# Ababa rules as Echavez chokes

JHONEL ABABA CARDED A TWO-OVER par 74 and ruled the Canlubang Amateur Open Golf Championships by two strokes over Peter Villaber as erstwhile leader Paul Echavez skied to an 81 at the Cangolf's south course yesterday.

Ababa, one shot behind Echavez at the start of the round, wrested the lead with a 35 at the front and cruised to the victory despite a closing 39 as Villaber, who fired a 73, ran out of holes for a comeback.

The 23-year-old Ababa wound up with a two-under par 286 total to capture the crown in the event.

Villaber nipped Sunnyboy Gialon in sudden death to snatch the runner-up honors. Villaber and Gialon, who closed out with a 72, both finished with 288s.

Echavez made 41 and 40 for an 81 as he tumbled down to fourth with a 292.

**LITTLE OLYMPIANS**
**Runners dispute the 100-meter dash gold medal in last year's Mindanao stop of the Milo Little Olympics. Student athletes from the region converge at the Gregorio Pelaez Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro City on Oct. 19 for the 2007 edition of the games. Competitions in 11 sports, namely athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, and volleyball, will be held on Oct. 20, 21, 27, and 28.**

WORLD BOXING TILT

# 7-man RP team off to Chicago

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Inquirer Libre*

THE SEARCH FOR THE COUNTRY'S first Olympic gold gets going as the seven-man RP-PLDT-Smart Boxing team takes a crack against the world's leading amateurs in the biennial World Boxing Championships slated Oct. 20 to Nov. 3 at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion.

About 700 boxers from a record 120 countries are seeing action in the event, the first of three qualifying tournaments lined up by the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Touted as one of the two sports capable of ending the country's Olympic gold-medal drought, the Nationals got an early bonus when powerhouse Cuba boycotted the event, fearing that the United States is a magnet for defection to its world-class boxers.

But Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manuel T. Lopez yesterday said the absence of the Cubans doesn't mean anything to the national team which is composed of battle-grizzled veterans and newcomers to international competitions.

"We prepare hard for this tournament and our boxers will fight all the way to attain our goals with or without the Cubans," said Lopez, a member of the AIBA executive committee headed by Taiwanese Chiang Kuo-wu.

Competitions actually start on Oct. 23 with the draws and preliminaries. The finals will be held on Nov. 3.

Doha Asian Games gold medalists Violito Payla (flyweight) and Joan Tipon (bantamweight) banner the team being supported by boxing godfather Manuel V. Pangilinan, also the chair of PLDT-Smart.

Completing the team are flyweight Harry Tañamor, featherweight Charly Suarez, lightweight Genebert Basadre, light-welterweight Delfin Boholst and welterweight Wilfredo Lopez. Head coach is Patricio Gaspi assisted by Ronald Chavez. Team officials are ABAP secretary-general Roger Fortaleza and Arturo Vidal.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B I

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# BUSINESS

*Editor* **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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# Prepayment of more foreign debt eyed

## Move seen to help curb sharp peso appreciation

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS AND THE NATIONAL government plan to settle more external debts ahead of maturity to take advantage of strong foreign inflows and temper the peso's strong appreciation against the dollar.

BSP Managing Director Ma. Cyd Amador told reporters Thursday night that the possible prepayment of more foreign debts was among the package of measures being drawn up by the government given growing complaints from exporters and overseas Filipinos on the adverse impact of a sharply rising peso.

After settling about $3 billion worth of foreign debts ahead of maturity since 2006, Amador said there might still be a few debt accounts where prepayment could be an option. "We continue to look at certain obligations that can be prepaid. There's still some but I'm not sure about the legal restrictions," Amador said.

However, she said the amount of debt prepayments by the BSP might not be as large as previous transactions. Even the national government and some private sector companies were using the same tack to take advantage of the peso's strengthening, she said.

The prepayment of more foreign debts by the government was among the measures sought by exporters to stem the peso's sharp appreciation.

Aside from easing upward pressure on the peso by increasing dollar outflows, debt prepayments also result in interest savings and reduces the country's debt stock. "If it's not the (national government) or BSP, the private sector is also doing it in a big way," she said.

Amador said the adverse impact of the peso appreciation on two crucial

PREPAYMENT/ B2

## IMF bullish on investment flows to RP

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund sees a stronger pick-up in investments in the Philippines for this year and next, but expects a slower export growth given a weakening of demand from western markets.

In its regional economic outlook for Asia-Pacific released in Washington DC Friday, the IMF upgraded its year-on-year investment growth forecast for the Philippines to 9.3 percent this year and 10.5 percent for 2008 from previous projections of 6.6 percent and 9 percent.

However, the IMF lowered its real export growth outlook to 9.1 percent this year and 7.3 percent next year from earlier forecasts of 10.9 percent and 10.4 percent.

The forecasts are in line with the IMF's expectations of a modest reduction in growth for Asia in 2008, in turn due to an expected softening of growth in China and India as well as in response to a slowdown in external demand.

Economic growth for the region was still projected to reach 8 percent in 2007, unchanged from 2006, but was seen to decline to 7.25 percent in 2008.

The IMF projected that China, which accounts for about 40 percent of Asia's economic output, would tighten policies on investments to reduce risks of overheating or a situation of rapid economic growth and spiraling inflation.

"A pattern of slower export and investment growth is expected across much of the region with only some de-linking from the global cycle," the IMF said.

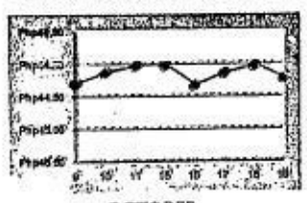
The revised investment growth outlook for the Philippines this year was better than the projected average growth of 7.4 percent for Southeast Asia's five biggest economies while the outlook for next year was at par with the projected regional average of 11 percent.

Within Southeast Asia, Vietnam was projected to post the highest investment growth of 11.9 percent this year while Indonesia was seen to be the best performer next year with a growth of 13.3 percent.

IMF BULLISH/ B2

### INDICATORS

#### CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

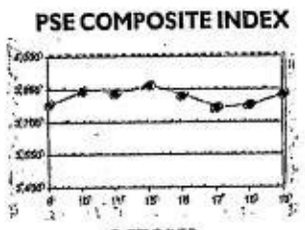
**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

₱ 44.24 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 19, 2007

#### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



OCTOBER

(See stock market report on Page B2)

### Shares rise 1.3% on good profit results

SHARES ADVANCED YESTERDAY AMID solid third-quarter corporate earnings reports, led by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Ex-

SHARES/ B4

# Sy consolidating property assets under Shoemart Inc.

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PRIVATE PROPERTY HOLDING Firm Shoemart Inc. of mall magnate Henry Sy has started its P5.2-billion buyout offer for minority shareholders owning 35 percent of sister residential developer SM Development Corp. (SMDC).

In a tender offer report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) released yesterday, Shoemart said it has set the tender offer period from Oct. 16 to Nov. 16.

Involved in the tender offer are 1.31 billion shares of SMDC that Shoemart wants to buy at P3.95 each. SMDC closed at P4.30 apiece yesterday.

Shoemart owns 15.7 percent of SMDC. Shoemart is negotiating to buy the 49 percent held by SM Investments Corp. in SMDC through a share-swap agreement under the same terms of the tender offer, the company said in its regulatory filing.

Out of the 35 percent owned by minority shareholders, around 13.6 percent are owned individually by members of the Sy family, including SMDC chair Henry Sy Sr. (12.17 percent), and fractional shares held by his children Harley, Hans, Herbert, Teresita and Henry Jr.

Shoemart is an investment and property holding company. As of Aug. 31, cash accounted for 98.3 percent of the company's net assets of P23 billion.

Shoemart's tender offer arises from a plan by Sy flagship firm SMIC to simplify its business structure to minimize cross ownership among various Sy-controlled companies and to make the structure friendlier to analysts covering SMIC.

Under the plan, SMIC will consolidate all its property assets under Shoemart.

SMIC's core businesses today are mall development (under SM Prime), retail (department stores, supermarkets and hypermarkets), banking (Banco de Oro and China Bank) and tourism (SMDC, Highlands Prime, SM Bay City and Hamilo Coast).

## Tender offer for SMDC set

## TKC Steel offer gets SEC nod

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has approved a plan by TKC Steel Corp. to raise as much as P2.7 billion from an offering up to 235 million shares.

The company said it would offer the additional shares at between P8 and P11.50 each. The offer period is Nov. 9-15.

The follow-on offering will churn out gross proceeds of between P1.88 billion and P2.7 billion to finance the expansion of two TKC subsidiaries.

TKC Steel has appointed First Metro Investment Corp. as financial adviser, issue manager and lead underwriter for the offering.

TKC Steel, through Treasure Steelworks Corp., will allocate P400 million for the purchase of blast furnace equipment for its steel production. Considered to be the first in the country, the blast furnace technology is expected to double the company's steel production output to 600,000 metric tons a year from the current 300,000 MT.

TKC Steel is the only steel manufacturing company listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. It has controlling interest in Treasure Steelworks, which operates the biggest billet-making plant in the country in terms of installed capacity.

The company also owns Zhang Zhou Stronghold Steel Works Co. Ltd., a manufacturer of steel pipes in the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian and a distributor to China and other export markets.

TKC Steel is part of the Tiu Group of Companies that also owns several businesses in the financial services and hospitality and tourism sectors. Among them are iRemit, an overseas remittance services company, Sterling Bank of Asia and the Discovery Hotel chain. *E.S. Lacson*

## Shares rise 1.3% on good profit results

From page B1

change Index rose 48.63 points, or 1.3 percent, at 3,819.75, extending Thursday's 0.3 percent gain.

"We've seen a glimpse of how some companies performed in the third quarter, and the so-far positive results give us confidence that other companies will also do well," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

ABS-CBN led the rise, surging 8.2 percent to P33 after reporting its third-quarter net profit nearly tripled on higher advertising revenues.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. climbed 2.8 percent to P3,110, in line with its American depository receipts' overnight advance.

Property developer Megaworld Corp. jumped 5.9 percent at P4.50, and Ayala Land Inc. inched up 1.5 percent to P17.

Gainers outnumbered decliners 57 to 53, with 56 stocks unchanged. *AP*

## Prepayment of more foreign debt eyed

From page B1

sectors—the exporters and families of OFWs—had become a big discussion and would be addressed in forthcoming Cabinet and multi-sectoral meetings.

On the part of the BSP, she said efforts were ongoing to help these sectors. She cited earlier reforms initiated by the BSP to reduce remittance charges by banks, ease identification requirements and improve access to banking channels via rural and cooperative banks.

She said the BSP was also conducting a study to quantify the overall impact of the peso's appreciation on the OFW sector.

"OFWs being hurt by a weaker dollar is (a) valid (concern) but there are OFWs going to countries where the currency is strong like in Europe, (including) London so the net impact might not be too harsh," Amador said.

### CURRENCIES

| October 19, 2007 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.699692 | 1.000000 | 44.0820 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006052 | 0.008649 | 0.3813 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.430241 | 2.044100 | 90.1080 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.090276 | 0.129022 | 5.6875 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.598181 | 0.854920 | 37.6866 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.718591 | 1.027010 | 45.2727 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.479143 | 0.684791 | 30.1870 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.624669 | 0.892777 | 39.3554 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.856637 | 2.653505 | 116.9718 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.187184 | 0.267523 | 11.7929 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.477508 | 0.682454 | 30.0839 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000077 | 0.000110 | 0.0048 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022202 | 0.031731 | 1.3988 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.190595 | 0.272398 | 12.0078 |
| EU | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.429200 | 63.0020 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000762 | 0.001089 | 0.0480 |
| China | Yuan** | 0.093154 | 0.133136 | 5.8689 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134195 | 0.191791 | 8.4545 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017709 | 0.025310 | 1.1157 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.208056 | 0.297354 | 13.1080 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.525768 | 0.751428 | 33.1244 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109125 | 0.155962 | 6.8751 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.021465 | 0.030678 | 1.3523 |

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Oct. 18, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Oct. 18, 2007


Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Dagupan City, Pangasinan

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The City Government of Dagupan through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

| Name of Contract | ABC | Payment of Bid Documents (non-refundable fee) |
|---|---|---|
| Proposed Renovation of Stimulation Therapeutic Activity Center (STAC), DSWD Compound, A.B. Fernandez West, Dagupan City | 2,213,813.47 | PhP 2,000.00 |

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility | October 16-22, 2007 |
| 2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms | October 16-22, 2007 |
| 3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | October 23, 2007 @ 2PM Conference Room, Mayor's Office |
| 4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check | October 24, 2007 |
| 5. Issuance of Bid Documents | October 24-30, 2007 |
| 6. Pre-bid Conference | October 31, 2007 |
| 7. Receipt and Opening of Bids | November 9, 2007 |

The BAC issue will to prospective at the BAC Secretariat, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee for Eligibility Forms to the One Stop Business Center, Dagupan City.

Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the result of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address. The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of bid documents.

Deadline for the Receipt of Bids will be on Nov. 9, 2007 not later than 9:00 AM. Late bids will not be accepted. Opening of bids shall be on the same date at 10:00 AM, Conference Room, City Mayor's Office, City Hall Complex.

The City of Dagupan assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

CONTACT PERSONS:

MS. ROSIE MACARANAS
Chairman, Secretariat
Contact No. (075) 515-5895

MS. JOCELYN SIAPNO
Member, Secretariat
Contact No. (075) 515-4430

MS. ZARAH FELISA ANGCAO
Member, Secretariat
Contact No. (075) 522-2751

Approved by:

ALIPIO VITTORIO RAMON D. FERNANDEZ
BAC Chairman


## IMF bullish...

From page B1

"Domestic activity across much of Asia has remained robust so far in the third quarter and exports have continued to recover. The most recent data suggest that investment looks healthy with industrial production generally robust," the IMF said.

It said business confidence also remained buoyant and capacity utilization continued to rise gradually.

Despite the slower export growth outlook, the forecast for the Philippines was still better than the 8.9-percent projected average for the region this year but for next year, the projected growth was weaker than the regional average of 9.3 percent.

Vietnam was seen to be the best performer in terms of export growth within Southeast Asia with a growth of 12.3 percent for this year and 19.2 percent in 2008.

The IMF also reported that trade interdependence in Asia was continuing to strengthen, reflecting the ongoing development of sophisticated production networks aimed at exploiting differences in comparative advantage.

Its analysis of Asia's changing trade patterns revealed that:

- the importance of exports to the region has reached unprecedented levels
- the expanded presence of Asia in world trade comes from trade in intermediate goods as a result of vertical specialization, with China as the export platform;
- emerging Asia has begun to move away from lower-end products to a more diversified export base, and
- the degree of competition within Asia appears to be intensifying.

But the report also warned of risks that the recent financial market turbulence could curb demand from foreign markets at a larger scale.

"If global financial markets remain volatile, liquidity and credit channels stressed, and risk aversion persistent, the impact could be felt on a broader range of households as well as banks and corporations in mature markets," the IMF said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

### PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 19, 2007)

| 52-WEEK HIGH | 52-WEEK LOW | STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **BANKS** | | | | | |
| 17.5 | 5.7 | Asiatrust Development Bank Inc. | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9 | 9 | 105,000 |
| 73 | 40.5 | Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc. | 64 | 64.5 | 64 | 64.5 | 1,281,400 |
| 73.5 | 53 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 67.5 | 69.5 | 67.5 | 68.5 | 2,135,100 |
| 748 | 528 | China Banking Corp. | 715 | 725 | 715 | 725 | 870 |
| 23.5 | 18.5 | Citystate Savings Bank | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 300 |
| 0.63 | 0.36 | Export and Industry Bank Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 2,250,000 |
| 75.5 | 44 | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. | 65 | 65 | 64 | 64.5 | 3,471,200 |
| 65.5 | 34 | Philippine National Bank | 50.5 | 51 | 49.5 | 50 | 1,693,200 |
| 68 | 42 | Philippine Savings Bank | 62 | 62.5 | 62 | 62.5 | 4,000 |
| 56.5 | 43 | Philippine Trust Co. | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 56.5 | 1,000 |
| 39.57 | 15.22 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 29.5 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 1,764,500 |
| 90 | 54.5 | Security Bank Corp. | 78 | 78 | 77.5 | 78 | 162,600 |
| 66 | 44.51 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 51.5 | 51.5 | 51 | 51.5 | 230,000 |
| | | **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.22 | 0.6 | Bankard Inc. | 2.02 | 2.04 | 2 | 2.04 | 3,440,000 |
| 16.25 | 4.35 | CitiSecOnline.com Inc. | 12.5 | 13.5 | 12.5 | 13.25 | 850,600 |
| 1.6 | 0.4 | First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 300,000 |
| 42.5 | 29 | First Metro Investment Corp. | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 500 |
| 5.9 | 5.3 | I-Remit Inc. | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 7,211,000 |
| 1,885.00 | 1,560.00 | Manulife Financial Corp. | 1,875.00 | 1,880.00 | 1,875.00 | 1,880.00 | 980 |
| 5 | 2.95 | National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. | 3.6 | 3.65 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 1,974,000 |
| 3.1 | 1.1 | PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. | 1.94 | 2 | 1.94 | 2 | 39,000 |
| 1,130.00 | 240 | The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. | 1,050.00 | 1,050.00 | 1,040.00 | 1,040.00 | 2,690 |
| 1.94 | 1.3 | Vantage Corp | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 293,000 |
| | | **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| 6.2 | 3.8 | Aboitiz Power Corp. | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 7,171,000 |
| 70.5 | 49 | First Gen Corp. | 66 | 66 | 65.5 | 66 | 983,700 |
| 92 | 50.5 | First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 87 | 88 | 87 | 87.5 | 491,800 |
| 17.5 | 8.8 | Manila Water Co. Inc. | 17.25 | 17.5 | 16.75 | 17 | 3,813,500 |
| 105.45 | 23.18 | Manila Electric Co. | 80.5 | 82.5 | 80.5 | 80.5 | 1,731,300 |
| 7.8 | 4.1 | PNOC Energy Development Corp. | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 13,687,000 |
| 6.8 | 3.9 | Petron Corp. | 6.4 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.7 | 23,044,000 |
| 14.75 | 6.6 | Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 304,000 |
| 2.5 | 1.7 | Salcon Power Corp. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 18,000 |
| 1.9 | 0.99 | Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp. | 1.34 | 1.52 | 1.34 | 1.44 | 9,454,000 |
| | | **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| 6.3 | 3.2 | Alaska Milk Corp. | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 171,000 |
| 2.95 | 1.66 | Alliance Tuna International Inc. | 1.94 | 1.96 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 543,000 |
| 2.4 | 1.08 | CADP Group Corp. | 1.78 | 1.8 | 1.78 | 1.8 | 44,000 |
| 61 | 39 | Jollibee Foods Corp. | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 502,300 |
| 9.1 | 5.3 | Pancake House Inc. | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 35,000 |
| 0.98 | 0.5 | RFM Corp. | 0.81 | 0.81 | 0.79 | 0.79 | 210,000 |
| 3.85 | 2.06 | Roxas Holdings | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 575,000 |
| 80 | 59 | San Miguel Corp. "A" | 60 | 60 | 59.5 | 60 | 60,900 |
| 88 | 59.5 | San Miguel Corp. "B" | 61.5 | 62 | 61.5 | 61.5 | 72,100 |
| 6.5 | 2 | Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 6 | 161,000 |
| 22 | 15 | Universal Robina Corp | 15 | 15.25 | 15 | 15.25 | 2,145,300 |
| 0.55 | 0.26 | Vitarich Corp. | 0.39 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.41 | 60,000 |
| | | **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 6.1 | 2.59 | EEI Corp. | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5,133,000 |
| 9.2 | 4.95 | Holcim Philippines Inc. | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 5,397,000 |
| 7 | 2.1 | Republic Cement Corp. | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.45 | 4.5 | 33,000 |
| 2 | 0.42 | Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. | 1.14 | 1.2 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 24,976,000 |
| | | **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| 6.3 | 3.75 | Chemrez Technologies Inc. | 4.65 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.75 | 855,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| 0.75 | 0.17 | Paxys Resources Inc. | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 2,240,000 |
| | | **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| 3.9 | 2.46 | A. Soriano Corp. | 3.25 | 3.3 | 3.25 | 3.25 | 38,000 |
| 0.17 | 0.03 | AJO.net Holdings Inc. | 0.125 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 17,380,000 |
| 1.28 | 0.235 | APC Group Inc. | 0.81 | 0.82 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 3,490,000 |
| 3.65 | 1.5 | ATN Holdings Inc. "A" | 3 | 3.05 | 2.95 | 3.05 | 981,000 |
| 0.018 | 0.0075 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A" | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 113,700,000 |
| 9.7 | 5.6 | Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 794,000 |
| 0.021 | 0.0075 | Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 94,000,000 |
| 7.3 | 3.5 | Alliance Global Group Inc. | 5.8 | 6 | 5.7 | 6 | 19,408,000 |
| 1.38 | 0.54 | Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. | 0.89 | 0.89 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 400,000 |
| 2.9 | 0.89 | Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. | 2.24 | 2.26 | 2.22 | 2.22 | 1,393,000 |
| 615 | 397.92 | Ayala Corp. | 575 | 585 | 575 | 580 | 184,920 |
| 15.25 | 7.22 | Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 100 |
| 5.8 | 1.38 | Benpres Holdings Corp. | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.65 | 18,851,000 |
| 10.25 | 4.35 | DMCI Holdings Inc. | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 2,639,000 |
| 6.9 | 1.08 | Eton Properties Philippines Inc. | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 72,000 |
| 2.5 | 0.7 | F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A" | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 3,000 |
| 8 | 2.55 | Filinvest Development Corp. | 6.9 | 7 | 6.9 | 7 | 314,000 |
| 14.5 | 7.3 | JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 11.25 | 11.25 | 11 | 11 | 681,900 |
| 11.5 | 1.48 | Minerales Industrias Corp. | 8.2 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 8 | 5,978,000 |
| 0.28 | 0.011 | Pacifica Inc. "A" | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 127,520,000 |
| 1.54 | 0.72 | Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 200,000 |
| 0.75 | 0.185 | Prime Orion Philippines Inc. | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 1,730,000 |
| 2.1 | 1.2 | Republic Glass Holdings Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 155,000 |
| 452.5 | 256.55 | SM Investments Corp. | 397.5 | 397.5 | 390 | 395 | 517,790 |
| 2.1 | 1.08 | Seafront Resources Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 51,000 |
| 0.73 | 0.13 | Sinophil Corp. | 0.45 | 0.46 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 5,740,000 |
| 1.06 | 0.61 | Solid Group Inc. | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.76 | 20,000 |
| 1.6 | 0.9 | South China Resources Inc. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 9,000 |
| 23 | 1 | TKC Steel Corp. | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 7,600 |
| 0.75 | 0.1 | Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 5,050,000 |
| | | **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| 2.34 | 1 | A Brown Co. Inc. | 1.38 | 1.4 | 1.38 | 1.38 | 119,000 |
| 8.9 | 5 | Anchor Land Holdings Inc. | 7.8 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.8 | 31,000 |
| 19.25 | 11.67 | Ayala Land Inc. | 16.75 | 17.25 | 16.75 | 17 | 17,568,900 |
| 1.88 | 1 | Belle Corp. | 1.36 | 1.4 | 1.36 | 1.4 | 2,846,000 |
| 4.7 | 2.9 | Cebu Holdings Inc. | 4.05 | 4.4 | 4.05 | 4.4 | 566,000 |
| 2.04 | 1.56 | Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp. "A" | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 100,000 |
| 2.7 | 1.18 | Cityland Development Corp. | 1.92 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 50,000 |
| 0.86 | 0.36 | Crown Equities Inc. | 0.64 | 0.64 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 500,000 |
| 0.83 | 0.24 | Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 1,580,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.52 | Empire East Land Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.82 | 0.8 | 0.81 | 24,570,000 |
| 0.47 | 0.055 | Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 1,350,000 |
| 1.48 | 0.61 | Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 1.14 | 1.18 | 1.12 | 1.16 | 13,354,000 |
| 2.44 | 1.26 | Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.94 | 1.94 | 1.9 | 1.92 | 43,472,000 |
| 0.49 | 0.11 | Gotesco Land Inc. "A" | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 630,000 |
| 3.3 | 2.16 | Highlands Prime Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 50,000 |
| 1.12 | 0.31 | MRC Allied Industries Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 980,000 |
| 4.6 | 1.85 | Megaworld Corp. | 4.25 | 4.6 | 4.25 | 4.5 | 110,450,000 |
| 6.4 | 1.5 | Metro Pacific Investments Corp. | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5 | 5 | 123,000 |
| 0.7 | 0.125 | Phil. Estates Corp. | 0.38 | 0.39 | 0.34 | 0.39 | 720,000 |
| 0.87 | 0.32 | Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. | 0.53 | 0.56 | 0.51 | 0.53 | 7,410,000 |
| 23 | 13 | Robinson Land Corp. | 21.75 | 21.75 | 21.25 | 21.25 | 1,827,200 |
| 5.9 | 1.52 | SM Development Corp. | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.15 | 4.3 | 1,433,000 |
| 13.5 | 6.72 | SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 12 | 12 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 6,796,600 |
| 3.25 | 1.2 | Shang Properties Inc. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 261,000 |
| 1.34 | 0.46 | Suntrust Home Developers Inc. | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 150,000 |
| 0.49 | 0.09 | Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 3,790,000 |
| 7.5 | 3.65 | Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 23,928,000 |
| | | **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| 38.5 | 18.75 | ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 31 | 33 | 31 | 33 | 354,800 |
| 11.75 | 8.4 | GMA Network Inc. | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 1,060,000 |
| 1.14 | 0.9 | Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 80,000 |
| | | **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.12 | 1.1 | Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. | 1.5 | 1.52 | 1.48 | 1.52 | 1,764,000 |
| 1,740.00 | 1,085.00 | Globe Telecom Inc. | 1,720.00 | 1,735.00 | 1,720.00 | 1,730.00 | 24,820 |
| 3,285.00 | 2,210.00 | Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 3,025.00 | 3,130.00 | 3,025.00 | 3,110.00 | 209,680 |
| 8.1 | 4.7 | Pilipino Telephone Corp. | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 4,569,000 |
| | | **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| 0.39 | 0.17 | Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.22 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 5,910,000 |
| 12 | 2 | Diversified Financial Network Inc. | 9 | 9.4 | 9 | 9.2 | 460,000 |
| 11.5 | 2 | IPVG Corp. | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9 | 9.2 | 755,000 |
| 0.065 | 0.027 | ISM Communications Corp. | 0.043 | 0.045 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 91,800,000 |
| 29.5 | 8 | Imperial Resources Inc. "A" | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 7,000 |
| 2.9 | 1.48 | Ionics Inc. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1,000 |
| 0.32 | 0.044 | Island Information and Technology Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 2,560,000 |
| 2.08 | 1.1 | Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 89,000 |
| 0.0725 | 0.03 | PhilWeb.Com Inc. | 0.055 | 0.0575 | 0.0525 | 0.0575 | 43,700,000 |
| 5.8 | 1.34 | Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc. | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.05 | 3.2 | 5,760,000 |
| | | **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 2.14 | 1.14 | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. | 1.5 | 1.52 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 31,000 |
| 6.8 | 3.6 | Asian Terminals Inc. | 4.2 | 4.25 | 4.2 | 4.25 | 156,000 |
| 42.5 | 18.5 | Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. | 39 | 39.5 | 39 | 39.5 | 43,200 |
| 2.16 | 0.93 | Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 625,000 |
| | | **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| 4.25 | 1.8 | Leisure and Resorts World Corp. | 3 | 3.2 | 3 | 3.2 | 374,000 |
| 0.98 | 0.32 | Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.64 | 0.64 | 1,460,000 |
| | | **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| 9.8 | 7.2 | Centro Escolar University | 8 | 8.2 | 8 | 8.2 | 24,000 |
| 3.7 | 2.6 | iPeople Inc. | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 78,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 41 | 6.6 | JTH Davies Holdings Inc. | 26 | 26 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 800 |
| 6 | 1.96 | Macroasia Corp. | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 1,562,000 |
| 17.25 | 9.8 | Pacific Online Systems Corp. | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 143,800 |
| 30 | 10.5 | Paxys Inc. | 13.5 | 13.75 | 12.75 | 13 | 636,200 |
| | | **MINING** | | | | | |
| 0.017 | 0.0085 | Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 119,600,000 |
| 7.6 | 3.6 | Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A" | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 310,000 |
| 7.7 | 3.85 | Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B" | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 207,000 |
| 21.25 | 7.8 | Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 15.25 | 15.5 | 15 | 15.25 | 4,155,100 |
| 14.25 | 8.9 | Benguet Corp. "A" | 13 | 13.25 | 13 | 13 | 47,000 |
| 10.5 | 1.8 | Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc. | 8.3 | 8.3 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 723,000 |
| 3.1 | 0.57 | GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc. | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.55 | 2.65 | 40,046,000 |
| 0.39 | 0.18 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A" | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 10,090,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.22 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B" | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 8,460,000 |
| 0.038 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. "A" | 0.028 | 0.028 | 0.027 | 0.028 | 330,200,000 |
| 0.041 | 0.02 | Manila Mining Corp. "B" | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 54,000,000 |
| 30 | 1.92 | NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc. | 28 | 28 | 24.75 | 26 | 5,801,600 |
| 0.021 | 0.0079 | Omico Corp. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.015 | 286,500,000 |
| 9.7 | 3.5 | Philex Mining Corp. | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 13,228,000 |
| 43.5 | 14.75 | Semirara Mining Corp. | 42.5 | 42.5 | 42 | 42 | 52,500 |
| 1.36 | 0.47 | United Paragon Mining Corp. | 1 | 1 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 2,200,000 |
| 1.8 | 0.65 | Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp. | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 700,000 |
| | | **OIL** | | | | | |
| 0.58 | 0.25 | Basic Energy Corp. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 2,810,000 |
| 0.029 | 0.0095 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A" | 0.025 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 389,000,000 |
| 0.03 | 0.01 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B" | 0.026 | 0.027 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 147,300,000 |
| 11.75 | 9 | Petroenergy Resources Corp. | 10.5 | 11.5 | 10.5 | 10.75 | 1,211,100 |
| 0.032 | 0.0089 | The Philodrill Corp. | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.028 | 0.028 | 337,300,000 |

| AVERAGES | | | VOLUME | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Financial | 966.81 UP | 3.66 | 27,210,940 | 688,544,095.00 |
| Industrial | 4,746.99 UP | 12.24 | 103,911,900 | 803,733,690.00 |
| Holding Firms | 2,143.05 UP | 8.65 | 421,300,710 | 651,422,395.00 |
| Property | 1,774.01 UP | 18.36 | 264,655,700 | 1,194,770,265.00 |
| Service | 1,879.82 UP | 45.48 | 164,238,300 | 811,343,285.00 |
| Mining & Oil | 8,203.46 DOWN | 13.20 | 1,791,941,300 | 1,073,011,450.00 |
| All Shares Index | 2,388.18 UP | 16.60 | | |
| PSEi | 3,819.75 UP | 48.63 | | |
| | | GRAND TOTALS | 2,773,258,850 | 5,222,825,180.00 |

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

# Gov't urged to go easy on wage, power burdens

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S SEMICONDUCTOR and electronics industries continue to reel from the effects of the strong peso against the US dollar despite the proliferation of hedging instruments in the financial community.

To offset this, officials of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) have urged policymakers to ease the sector's labor and power cost burdens to help keep it competitive with rising manufacturing bases in the region.

In a press briefing, Seipi chair Arthur Young identified labor and power costs as the two main cost components that—if eased—would help the industry cope with the effects of the weak dollar.

He lamented that member firms must regularly contend with rising labor costs, prompted by annual adjustments in wages or employees' allowances, regardless of their level of productivity.

"We would like to see pay hikes based on productivity," Young said, instead of merely raising wages based on policy that is legislated or mandated by wage boards. "We would like [to have] that freedom."

He said that the country already has some of the highest labor costs in the region, its talented work force notwithstanding.

Seipi treasurer and First Sumiden Cuircuits Inc. president Dan Lachica pointed out that demand for semiconductors continues to rise around the world, but added that competition has driven prices down by an average of 20 to 30 percent each year.

He said that rising labor costs and high power costs pose a threat to the viability of the local electronics manufacturing industry.

"If we're not careful, we'll see firms shutting down or moving to Vietnam," he said. "The threat is real today."

Seipi officials conceded that the mitigation of power and labor costs are necessary to cope with the strength of the local currency, which caught many manufacturers by surprise.

During the briefing, officials presented a scenario that showed a $100-million electronics manufacturer suffering an additional cost of $575,000 for every peso gained against the US dollar.

While the peso appreciated rapidly during the 10-month period from October 2006 to July 2007, the cost of power rose eight times over the same period, resulting in a "double whammy" for industry players.

Seipi officials proposed several solutions to their industry's problem including the reduction of generation charges which comprise almost three-fourths of their electricity bills; the removal of royalties on indigenous fuels like natural gas, which are presently the most heavily taxed; the "automaticity" of power rates to make them rise and fall together with the exchange rate; and the imposition of special power rates for economic zones where they operate.

# Microchip opens R&D hub in RP

By Riza T. Olchondra

MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY INC., THE US-based global leader in microcontroller and analogue semiconductor manufacturing, has opened its global research and development (R&D) hub in the Philippines, seeking to corner the labor pool of Filipino electronics engineers.

The hub, called the Philippine Technical Center (PTC), is located at the Madrigal Business Park in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. It is the first stand-alone technical development center for microcontrollers and analog semiconductors, and the first of its kind to provide support to R&D centers worldwide.

Initially, 200 or so engineers will be recruited, with more to be hired as the company scales up its global R&D support work.

"Microcontrollers and analog semiconductors are used in advanced electronic products, ranging from remote controls and cellular phones to intelligent washing machines and high-end cars," said Steve Sanghi, Microchip president. "Manufacturing it requires advanced test development."

He added that the firm has been hiring Filipino engineers over the years, "because they are the only ones who are as good as our engineers ... in the US."

"But not every [US] engineer wants to relocate [to our manufacturing and R&D facility in Thailand]," Sanghi said. "So, we thought, why not just bring the jobs here?"

Philippines general manager for operations Doug Chaffee added that the company is confident that there will be a sustainable supply of engineers in the Philippines.

Microchip is headquartered in Chandler, Arizona, USA.

# CA hands win to PCGG-backed Philcomsat bloc

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS UPHELD A lower court's decision that the government-led Locsin-Poblador group is the legitimate board of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), a sequestered firm controlled by a rival group that has been linked with the Marcos regime.

The CA effectively dismissed legal challenges to the legitimacy of the Locsin-Poblador group as the duly elected board of Philcomsat and its mother company, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), the group's legal counsel Rene Saguisag said in a statement.

The ruling, penned by Associate Justice Martin S. Villarama Jr. of the CA's sixth division and promulgated on June 8, 2007, upheld an earlier Makati court order saying it is the Sandiganbayan, not the regular court, that has jurisdiction over the cases since the companies are sequestered.

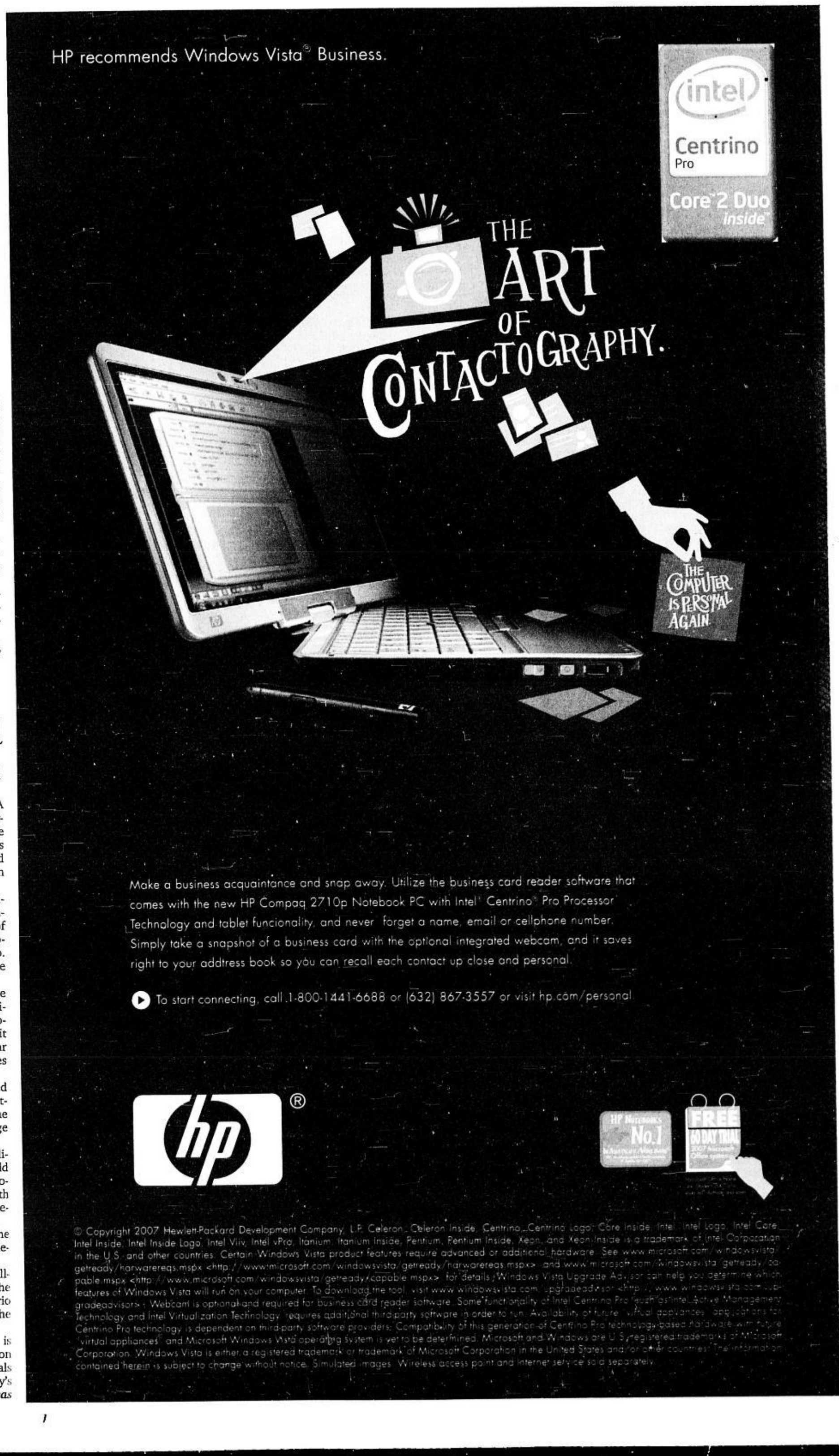
The rival Ilusorio-Africa group has filed over 50 cases against the government-backed group to support its claim that the firms are not sequestered and to challenge its rival's legitimacy.

The CA ruling, which affirmed the Sandiganbayan's jurisdiction over the case, would also affect all the cases filed by the Ilusorio-Africa group since they were all filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court, the statement from the Locsin-Poblador camp said.

The Sandiganbayan now becomes the proper forum with sequestration as key legal issue, according to Saguisag.

POTC and Philcomsat, reported to be ill-gotten assets, were sequestered from the group that included Potenciano Ilusorio and Jose L. Africa. The group, took over the firm in 2000.

The Locsin-Poblador group, which is backed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, claims that their rivals have defied attempts to have the company's books audited. *Daxim L. Lucas*



# IABC sets Philippine Quill Awards deadline

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS COMMUNIcators (IABC) recently announced that the Philippine Quill Awards is now accepting entries until Oct. 22.

The Philippine Quill Awards, renamed from the Gold Quill Awards is country's most prestigious and relevant award for business communicators, universally acknowledged as the communication industry benchmark for excellence and accomplishments.

"As more Philippine entries are winning the international Gold Quill, we moved the holding of the Philippine Quill Awards to Nov. 14 this year to give Philippine entries more time to meet the early February deadline of the international contest," Roni Tapia-Merk, IABC chapter president and CEO of MerkComm.

This year's Quill Awards will have a third category, Communication Creatives, in addition to the Communication Management and Communication skills categories.

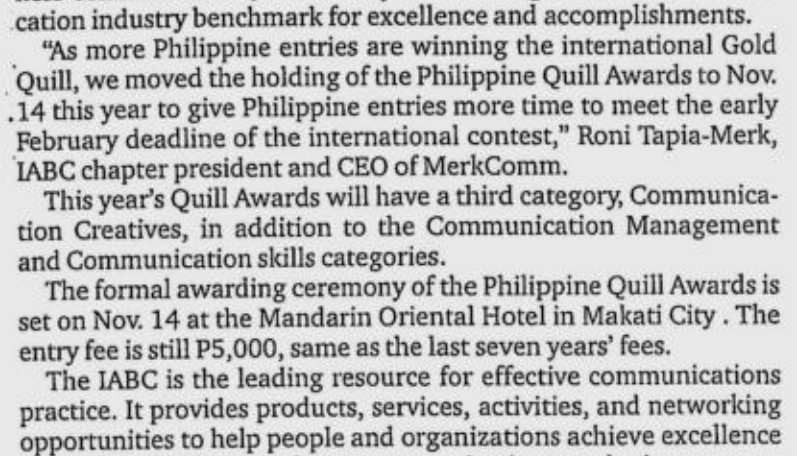
The formal awarding ceremony of the Philippine Quill Awards is set on Nov. 14 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City . The entry fee is still P5,000, same as the last seven years' fees.

The IABC is the leading resource for effective communications practice. It provides products, services, activities, and networking opportunities to help people and organizations achieve excellence in public relations, employee communication, marketing communication, public affairs, and other forms of communication.

For more information on the Philippine Quill Awards, call the IABC secretariat at 750-5667 or 810-1631 ext. 123, or e-mail at iabc_philippines@yahoo.com.

## MMSU Lab High Reunion

TO ALL MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY HIGH School Batch '82. We are celebrating our Silver Jubilee Alumni Homecoming on Dec. 29, 2007. For inquiries, call Lualhati Fausto (Manila) at (0917) 8167670 or Shiela Ragasa-Camagon (Laoag) at (0917) 4610535.




**PANASONIC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP**

Three young Filipino professionals received scholarship for master's course in Japan during the 2008 Panasonic Scholarship awarding ceremony held recently. Scholars (seated from left) are: engineers Miguel Enrique VC. Castañeda, Randy L. Jalem, and Ginghis B. Maranan. Also shown in photo (standing from left) are: Panasonic Philippines president Rene Almeda, Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp (PMPC) director Miguel Castro, Panasonic Scholarship Inc (Japan) president Tsutomu Shimada, Japan Information and Cultural Center of the Embassy of Japan director Tomoko Dodo, Panasonic Electric Works Sales Philippines Corp president Hideshi Goto, Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Nenalyn Defensor, PMPC executive director Toshihiko Iwamoto, Panasonic Communications Corp of the Philippines (PCP) president Toshinori Kai, PMPC president Reynaldo Lico, PCP chief operating officer Manuel Espinoza, and PMPC assistant director Marlon Molano.

**PRSP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) inducted 10 new members during the 14th National Public Relations Congress held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City last Sept. 28. PRSP president Butch S. Raquel, APR, of GMA Network Inc and secretary/chairperson of the membership committee Maria Lourdes Espina of Total Philippines, inducted (from left) Patricia Freyja Santos, manager - corporate brand and communications of Bayan Telecommunications Inc, Marian Castillo, country communications manager of IBM Philippines Inc, Dindo Danao, executive director of Odyssey Foundation Inc, Ma Lourdes Tiquia, founder/general manager of Publicus Co Ltd, Raymond Santiago, communications specialist of United Laboratories Inc, Antonette Beatriz Jose, corporate communications consultant of Tollways Management Corp, Rodolfo Azanza, CSR and external relations manager of SN Aboitiz Power Inc, Ernani Barrientos, corporate affairs officer of United Laboratories, Antonio Gonzaga, corporate affairs specialist of United Laboratories and Mary Christine Culibao, writer, corporate communications and advertising of Megaworld Corp.

## Panasonic inaugurates country's first I-Zone in Pampanga

As one of the country's pioneers of fresh innovations off the contemporary market, Panasonic recently launched its first I-Zone or Idea Zone, a technological hub that celebrates Panasonic's Ideas for Life that continuously revolutionizes the technology-laden business and social circuit, at Dau, Pampanga.

Aimed at manufacturing and distributing products to offer multifunctional purposes for the consumers, I-Zone or Idea Zone also hopes to deliver an extraordinary experience that will bring out the realization and transformation of key ideas into valuable, convenient and high-quality merchandise.

"This is just the beginning of Panasonic's thrust to put forward quality innovations that promise to cater to all the needs of the consumers," Rene Almeda, Panasonic Philippines President, said in a press conference held at Spencer's Restaurant in Dau, Pampanga. "Eventually, we hope to encompass key provinces and cities all over the Philippines as we continue upgrading and developing new products for the ultimate modern experience."

Located at Saver's Mart, Panasonic's I-Zone in Pampanga is also its first showroom in the oldest province of Central Luzon. Jaime Jack Uy, President and CEO of Saver's Mart (under Sentine Corporation), expressed his pleasure at the opportunity of harboring the first I-Zone in the country.

"Being the launching point of Panasonic's technological hub effectively addresses the dynamism in the market that simultaneously brings forth high-end and mainstream products," he said. "Now, there's an easier access to Panasonic's wide appliance network for the Kapampangans."

Hiroyuki Iwaki, Panasonic's Sales and Marketing Director, highlighted the newest products that will provide enormous service and convenience available at I-Zone. He emphasized Panasonic's array of LCD and Plasma Flat Panel TVs, audio and video entertainment system, its exquisite collection of Lumix cameras, and the latest technology in its new age refrigerators, the Inverter technology, that helps cut off electricity consumption during the conference.

"With the cutting-edge products that we release to the market, the consumers are assured that the quality of technology we incorporate in the products always compromises with the consumer's convenience," Iwaki said.

(ABOVE) Celebrating Innovation.
Celebrating the country's first I-Zone (Idea Zone) at Saver's Mart, Dau, Pampanga are (from left) Jaime Jack Uy, owner of Saver's Mart; Hiroyuki Iwaki, Panasonic's Sales and Marketing Director Rene Almeda, Panasonic Philippines President and Shirley Uy.

(LEFT) Beholding technological brilliance
James Manalo, Panasonic Regional Manager Rene Almeda, Panasonic Philippines President, Ellen Suarez, Panasonic Marketing Manager Jaime Jack Uy, owner of Saver's Mart and Hiroyuki Iwaki, Panasonic Sales and Marketing Director come together for another Panasonic milestone with the first Idea Zone (I-Zone) in the Philippines.

# Unctad sees FDI windfall in 5 yrs

## RP urged to step up effort to lure investments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE UNITED NATIONS CONference on Trade and Development (Unctad) has urged the Philippines to step up efforts in attracting foreign direct investments, as the institution predicts a considerable increase in inflows to developing economies in the next five years.

According to the 2007 World Investment Report by the Unctad, FDIs in developing nations, especially those in South, East and Southeast Asia, are expected to increase over the medium term and reach the peak posted in 2000.

Economist Jovi Dacanay, who presented the Unctad's report before the media yesterday, said the trend of cross-border mergers and acquisitions by transnational corporations would boost FDIs in developing economies.

The report said FDIs to South, East and Southeast Asia grew 19 percent to $200 billion last year from that of the previous year.

China and Hong Kong remain to be the largest recipients of FDIs in the region, accounting for $69 billion and $43 billion, respectively.

The Philippines continued to receive the least amount of FDIs in the region, although the $2.345 billion in investments that entered the country last year marked a historic high, and a 26-percent year-on-year increase.

"The Philippines' potential to attract FDI has been highlighted by the decision of Texas Instruments to invest around $1 billion in the country, over 10 years," Unctad said in the report.

The report said that, in 2000, FDIs' share to total fixed capital formation in countries in South, East, and Southeast Asia reached its highest level at 15.3 percent. Dacanay said Unctad believes that this level will be regained over the next five years, partly due to the trend of cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

Dacanay said the share of FDIs to total fixed capital formation dropped, starting in 2001, to as low as 8.4 percent in 2003 because investors started shying away from equity investments. The figure, however, improved starting 2004.

Last year, the share of FDIs to total fixed capital formation hit 11.5 percent. Dacanay said that, over the medium term, the figure could further improve to at least 15.3 percent and equal that of the 2000 level.

To take advantage of foreign investors' interest in developing economies, Dacanay said, the Philippines should be more aggressive in its marketing campaign. She said that, compared with that of its neighbors, the Philippines program to market itself to investors was relatively less aggressive.

The economist added that the government should work on further liberalizing the country's business environment. One way to do this, she said, was to revisit economic provisions of the Constitution and make it more welcoming to foreign investors.

The Constitutional provision limiting foreign ownership of businesses in the Philippines to only 40 percent was one of the factors commonly identified as an obstacle to the entry of more foreign investments in the country.

Growth in FDIs to South, East and Southeast Asia was consistent with the rise in global investments to $1.306 trillion, up 38 percent from that of the previous year. This was led by the increase in FDIs to developed countries, including the United States.

FDIs to developed countries alone reached $857 billion, up 45 percent year-on-year. Of the amount, $175 billion was accounted for by FDIs to the US.

## Data seen to confirm Otto Energy's rich oil, gas prospects

By Abigail L. Ho

AUSTRALIAN FIRM OTTO Energy Ltd. is set to interpret some 950 kilometers of 2D seismic data from the Marantao prospect in offshore west Palawan, in preparation for a farm-in agreement to be forged by late 2008 or early 2009.

Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp., partner of Otto subsidiary NorAsian Energy Ltd. for the development of Service Contract 55, said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the 2D seismic data gathered in June would be interpreted by next month.

The listed firm, which had a 15-percent interest in the service contract, said initial indications showed that the Marantao prospect had the "potential for a significant oil and/or gas discovery."

Otto chief executive Alex Parks had earlier said that based on preliminary seismic data, SC 55 was estimated to contain approximately 1.8 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas and 567 million barrels of oil.

If oil alone is found in the area, prospective resource estimates are placed at between 320 million and close to 2.7 billion barrels.

Should the area contain only gas, the potential yield has been estimated at between 721 billion cubic feet (BCF) and 5.6 TCF—even bigger than the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project's 3 TCF.

And if both oil and gas were to be found—similar to that of the Malampaya project—Otto could expect a yield of between 468 BCF and 3.6 TCF of gas, and between 144 million and 1.1 billion barrels of oil.

"Marantao is the jewel in our exploration portfolio in the Philippines, and we are pleased with the prospectivity of this license from the initial 2D seismic data," Parks said. "Once Otto has a clear understanding of the ultimate potential of the block, select companies will be invited to view the interpretation and commence farm-in negotiations."

**CALL CENTER BRANCH OPENS**

Sen. Mar Roxas (second from left), is flanked by Teleperformance Philippines executives Miguel Cojuangco, Dominic Dato, David Rizzo and Daniel Julien, during the inauguration of its call center branch at the Edsa IT Center. RUDY ESPERAS

# In Sept, RP again breached limit on interest payments

THE NATIONAL GOVERNment continued to overshoot its programmed spending for interest payments in September, as the US subprime market scare led to increase in interest rates on Philippine bonds.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the government spent P30.2 billion in September to pay for interest on its maturing obligations. This was P1.1 billion higher than the P29.1-billion limit set under the fiscal program for the month.

It was the second month in a row that the government exceeded its interest-payments program. In August, the government spent P33 billion to pay for interest on its loans—P5 billion higher than the program of P28 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan earlier said the US subprime market woes led to higher interest rates on bonds issued by the Philippines and other emerging economies.

This is because emerging economies have the same credit rating as that of the US subprime market. Risk aversion brought about by the US subprime market crisis, therefore, also affected emerging economies.

The US subprime market is composed of high-risk borrowers of housing loans. Defaults by a significant number of borrowers forced some financial institutions to resort to job cuts.

For January to September, however, the government's spending for interest on its loans were still way below the nine-month program. This was due to the decline in interest rates prior to the US subprime market crisis, and the appreciation of the peso.

DOF data showed that interest payment for January to September reached P222.7 billion, lower by P23.9 billion than the program of P246.6 billion.

Domestic interest rates, which were somehow shielded from the volatile international market, had been lower than expected. The 91-day Treasury bill, for instance, had been fetching rates in the 3-percent level, lower than the 4- to 5-percent range assumed by economic managers who crafted the 2007 budget program.

The appreciation of the peso likewise has a positive impact on government's finances. A stronger-than-expected peso helps trim the government's foreign-currency denominated debts, in local currency terms, allowing the government to pay less than programmed.

TAN

The peso currently hovers in the 44-to-a-dollar territory, much stronger than the 48 to 50 originally expected when economic managers drafted the 2007 national budget.

Officials attribute the strengthening of the peso to increase in inflow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and of foreign investments.

Under the 2007 budget program, the government was allowed to spend P891 billion for infrastructure, social services, salaries of employees, and other expenditures in January to September. Its actual spending for the period, however, reached only P852.3 billion, or P38.7 billion lower than programmed. *Michelle V. Remo*

## Ship firm seeks to beat deadline on double-hulls

RUSHING TO BEAT THE DEADLINE FOR the double-hulling of all black oil tankers, a unit of the Magsaysay Transport & Logistics Group has contracted a Chinese firm to build one such vessel for use in the Philippines.

Magsaysay subsidiary Islas Tankers Shipping Corp. (ITSC) said in a statement that it has signed an agreement with Shandong Rushan Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. (SRC) of China for the construction of a 3,800 DWT double-hull fuel oil tanker.

The vessel, called by SRC as "Hull No. 507," is under construction in Rushankou, Shandong Province of China. ITSC did not disclose how much the vessel costs.

But industry sources said one double-hulled black cargo tanker, which carries crude and bunker oil, can range from $8 million and $16 million, depending on the size, features and brand.

ITSC said Hull No. 507 was designed in accordance with the strict standards of the international oil majors by Shanghai Merchant Ship Design and Research Institute, one of the more reputable ship designers worldwide, and is classed under Bureau Veritas, an internationally known classification society.

The vessel is equipped with an Accuload System that enables the vessel crew to remotely monitor the actual volume of a fuel oil product being loaded. This is a new feature that establishes an accurate load reading in real time, while it assists in ensuring the safe operations of the tanker.

Magsaysay spokesperson Bobby Aquino said in an interview that the double hull design "practically eliminates the possibility of an oil spill" since the cargo is protected both by interior and exterior hulls. He explained that double hulling reinforces the integrity of the vessel's structure and increases vessel buoyancy. *Riza T. Olchondra*

# SRA orders release of more sugar to local market

By Carla P. Gomez
*Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—THE SUGAR REGULatory Administration (SRA) has ordered the release of more sugar into the local market to stop prices from rising further.

Under the SRA's new sugar allocation policy, 89 percent of total production will go to the domestic market from the previous 80 percent.

Also under the new policy, six percent of production will be allocated as "A" to fill the US sugar quota, down from seven percent; and five percent will be for "D" or the world market from eight percent.

The five percent allocation for "C" or reserve sugar was scrapped.

The revision in the sugar allocation was prompted by the rise in retail prices of raw sugar to P36 and refined sugar to as much as P42 a kilo due to tight supply.

At the start of the milling season in September, raw sugar was selling at about P30 and refined sugar at P32-P36 a kilo.

SRA administrator Rafael Coscolluela blamed the tight sugar supply in the domestic market on the unusually heavy rainfall in Negros and Panay in September, which was 160 percent above normal.

The bulk of the country's sugar production comes from the Negros and Panay islands.

Coscolluela said the heavy rainfall delayed the harvest of sugarcane and reduced the crop's purity.

Enrique Rojas, president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters said in a letter to Coscolluela that the group welcomed the new allocation order, but asked that the allocation to the world market should be totally scrapped.

"Instead, we propose that the five percent allocation for D be allocated for C or reserve sugar," Rojas said in his letter.

However, former SRA Administrator James Ledesma said there was a need to continue the D or world market sugar allocation program, "which has proved itself successful in the past, in order to ship out our sugar excess towards the end of this crop year."

Coscolluela said the SRA board would discuss the suggestions of the planters groups on the D sugar during its next meeting.

Federico Locsin III, Confederation of Sugar Producers (Confed) Negros Panay chapter president, said his group supported the immediate response of Coscolluela to address the current market conditions in Manila by increasing the sugar production allocation for the domestic market.

"The superficial increase in Metro Manila of sugar prices will definitely revert back to more affordable levels as sugar production stands to normalize and will peak towards the months of November to March, meaning there will be more than enough sugar in the market," Bernard Trebol of Confed also said.

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# Epson reaches out to Ilocos partners

By Cristina Arzadon
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

LAOAG CITY—THE LEADING company in digital imaging has taken its products right at the doorstep of end users in Northern Luzon and, in the process, brought along business solutions to answer their business needs.

In its first business conference in the Ilocos region last week at the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino here, Epson gathered all of its business partners and local distributors and bared its latest products as part of the company's road show around the Philippines.

Mike Mondragon, Epson's senior manager for corporate sales, said Ilocos was the first stop in a nationwide visit to Epson's customers.

"As a vendor, we only sit down with business partners. But we need to get in touch with our consumers (as well) and offer them different kinds of business solutions," he said.

The conference gathered some 60 companies and 20 distributors of Epson products in the Ilocos provinces of Cagayan, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte.

Hideto Nakamura, Epson's president, said the road show was meant to establish harmony with product users whose continued patronage had helped build a billion-peso company in less than 10 years.

"We will constantly try to come up with solutions for our clients' business needs," he said.

The company showed how its products could be used as a business tool in offices, restaurants, schools and in the banking industry.

It brought along some of its latest products ranging from imaging on paper (printers and other imaging products), imaging on screen (office and home multimedia projectors, and other visual imaging equipment) and imaging on support devices (displays, semiconductors and optical devices).

# *Petilla new chair of IBC-13*

By Joey A. Gabieta
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo has named former Leyte Rep. Remedios Petilla as chair of the sequestered IBC-13 broadcasting network.

Ms Arroyo likewise named Petilla vice president of Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Petilla planned to run for reelection in the May polls this year but the President asked her to abandon her reelection bid in favor of Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who handily won.

Romualdez, nephew of former first lady Imelda Marcos, ran under the President's party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (KampI).

"I don't think it is a reward. The President just wants me to do something which could help her," Petilla said in an interview on Wednesday.

The President informed her of her appointments in a telephone conversation, Petilla said.

Petilla said that she was happy that the President continues to trust her by naming her to the posts, which she described as "challenging."

She also said that she would do her best to live up to the expectations of the President.

# Leyte traders on mission to lure more investors

By Vicente Labro
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—LEYTE BUSInessmen are working together to attract more investors to the province.

In celebration of the province's Business Month this October, several activities have been lined up, which are aimed at building the capabilities of local businessmen, attracting more investors and providing employment to the people.

Already, a memorandum of agreement between the Leyte Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and several colleges and universities in the province has been signed for the schools to produce the type of graduates that the business community needs.

The agreement would pave the way for the exchange of expertise in the areas of management, entrepreneurship and accounting and the conduct of collaborative projects and research in management, among others.

Orlando Uy, LCCI president, said this agreement would address the problem on job and skills mismatch.

The LCCI, composed of 120 local businessmen, is spearheading the province's first-Business Month celebration, which has the support of the provincial government headed by Gov. Jericho Petilla.

Uy said investment promotions would initially focus on the agri-aqua, tourism and information technology industries here.

With around 330,000 hectares of land devoted to agriculture, Leyte provides investors an opportunity to put their money in agri-business ventures, inland fishery and mariculture.

Leyte also has tourism potential due to its natural and manmade attractions such as the MacArthur Landing Memorial, Palo Metropolitan Cathedral, Lake Danao and the famous San Juanico Bridge that connects Leyte to Samar.

Meanwhile, the 6.9-hectare ICT Park in Barangay Pawing, Palo, Leyte, with nearly four hectares already developed, would also help establish Leyte as a viable site for information technology investments.

The Leyte ICT Park has been targeting locators engaged in call centers, business process outsourcing, software development, digital animation and other similar businesses.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3467, Series of 2007.

*Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Teacher and Friend*

# Lourdes de Jesus Ibarra

**of San Jose, Bulacan, Bulacan**

*has passed from this life and found eternal peace in the Lord's presence at the age of 92.*

Her loving nephews, nieces, stepdaughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuarium (Chapel Freesia) at G. Araneta Avenue cor Quezon Avenue, Quezon City after which it will be transferred to San Nicolas de Tolentino Chapel, San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at 7:00AM.

Interment follows at the Bulacan, Bulacan Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 pm Holy Mass at the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption.

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God ...."*

*Psalm 28:7*

# NEMESIA QUIÑONES PACIA

**of Agkawayan, Looc, Occidental Mindoro and Mariveles, Bataan**

*Our mother, "Meny" peacefully and gracefully joined our Creator on the 16th of October, 2007 at the age of 74.*

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City. A memorial service will be held today, October 20, 2007, at 8:30 in the evening.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at 11:00 AM.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me." **(Psalm 116:7)**

## Death Notice

### Kurt Mathew B. Isip

Born on Nov. 08, 1996
Submit to God's grace
on Oct. 19, 2007.

His remains lie
in state at 67 Aries St., Purok 3,
Tipo, Hermosa, Bataan.
He will have his final rites
on Oct. 23, 2007.

*"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise"* **Luke 23:43**

*In Loving Memory*

On the 1st Death Anniversary of

## RUFINO de TORRES y de OCAMPO

July 30, 1916 – October 20, 2006

**Brgy. Dagatan & Laurel, Taysan, Batangas**

The HOLY MASS will be offered for the eternal repose of his soul at the following:

October 20, 2007

| | |
|---|---|
| Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Rosario, Batangas | 5:30 AM |
| St. Joseph Cathedral, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro | 6:00 AM |
| St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Lucena City | 6:00 AM |
| Santo Niño Parish, Taguig City | 6:00 AM |
| Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City | 6:15 AM |
| Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Taysan, Batangas | 6:30 AM |
| St. Mary Euphrasia Parish, Kumintang, Batangas City | 6:30 AM |
| St. Joseph Chapel, Camp Crame, Quezon City | 6:30 AM |
| Basilica del Sto. Niño, Osmeña Blvd., Santo Niño, Cebu City | 8:00 AM |

PRAYER offering at 8:00AM, October 20, 2007 – Eternal Garden, Batangas City

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## JOSEFINA YLAGAN MANAWIS

*Peacefully joined her Creator on October 16, 2007* at the age of 84.

Her bereaved children: **Ramon (†) & Fe, Hector & Gina, Malu & Tony, Jingle;** grandchildren: **Isah, Paola, Raymund, Guia, Li-anne, Justine, Kristine and Ros;** sister **Emily;** relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."** Matthew 11:28

# CLASSIFIEDS

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**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) through the Department of Education - Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

| Package No. | Package Description | Minimum Quantity (in packs) | Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per Package | Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids | End user |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | Supply of Fortified Noodles with Fresh Eggs | 383,794 boxes (40 packs/ box) | P 245,627,840.00 | November 13, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Venue: Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City | Health and Nutrition Center |
| II | Freight and Handling of Fortified Noodles with Fresh Eggs | 383,794 boxes | P 38,500,000.00 | | |

Bidders shall offer the maximum or the most number of quantities for the respective amount of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC of each package will be rejected at bid opening. Bidders may bid for any or both of the Packages. Late bids shall be rejected.

The DepED will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible bidders on **October 30, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal 1 Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **October 22, 2007** upon payment of the non-refundable fee in the amount of Philippine Pesos Five Thousand and 00/100 only (Php5,000.00)

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org** or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 633-93-43 / 636-65-42 or Fax No. 636-65-43.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) TEODOSIO C. SANGIL, JR.
Undersecretary and BAC I Chairperson

(PDI – October 20, 2007)

**Philippine Economic Zone Authority**
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**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that **DYNA IMAGE CORPORATION PHILIPPINES (DICP)** with plant site at the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor Camera Module based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 551-9544; and telefax 551-3456).

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI – October 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
***COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS***
Manila

**EN BANC**

IN THE MATTER OF ACCREDITATION AS CITIZENS' ARM OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF MAGUINDANAO, SHARIFF KABUNSUAN, LANAO DEL SUR, BASILAN, SULU AND TAWI-TAWI FOR BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 29, 2007 IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO AND CITIES OF MARAWI, COTABATO, LAMITAN AND ISABELA

SPP NO. 07-027 (BRGY)

CITIZEN COALITION FOR ARMM ELECTORAL REFORMS, INC. (Citizens CARE).
Petitioner.
x ---------- x

**ORDER**

Acting on the verified petition of "CITIZEN COALITION FOR ARMM ELECTORAL REFORMS, INC. (CITIZENS CARE)" filed on October 09, 2007 for accreditation as citizens' arm of the Commission on Elections for Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections specifically in the six (6) provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Cities of Cotabato and Isabela, pursuant to Section 4, Rule 33 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure, petitioner is hereby ordered to cause the publication of herein petition, together with this order in a newspaper of general circulation at its own expense.

Let this case be set for hearing on **Monday, 22 October 2007 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning,** at the Comelec Session Hall, Intramuros, Manila.

**SO ORDERED.**

Given this 16th day of October 2007, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSION

**RESURRECCION Z. BORRA**
Acting Chairman

(PDI – October 20, 2007)

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Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 – 24, 2007)

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION**

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

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*"I am the Resurrection and the Life.*
*He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;*
*and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die..."*

*John 11:25-26*

# Juanito

## JUANITO IBAÑEZ KING

January 28, 1915 – October 18, 2007

has peacefully returned home to the loving embrace
of his Creator at the age of 92.

His bereaved **children, grandchildren, great grandchildren,**

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Edward

*ROBIN & ELEANOR HILL*
Margarette & Jocelino Joun,
Matthew, Samantha and Nicholas;
Kenneth & Miljoy, Dylan;
Kathleen & Brent Santos, Karl and Justin;
Jonathan & Mara, Danielle

*RICARIDO & ROSALINDA TIU*
Regan & Roselle, Rex and Renzo;
Ross Rica & Darren Deen, Darric and Cody;
Ross Ann & Fredric Chung;
Richard Ray & Fiona, Renoa and Ayrton

*LUIS SR. & IMMA ALIVIADO*
Jason & Eunice;
Luis Jr. & Kim, Kiana;
Helena;
John Philip

*MARIO & HAYDEE CORTES*
Kristine & David Gaisano II, Dean;
Mary Ellen Ruth;
May Angela;
Golda;
David;
Joseph

relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray
for the repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Divine Mercy Chapel at Sacred Heart Parish, Cebu City.
Vigil mass is celebrated every night at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral mass will be on October 21, 2007 Sunday 1:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish.
Interment will follow at Cebu Memorial Park.

Please omit flowers.

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

# SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

# RP welcomes world's first once a year drug for osteoporosis

By Charles E. Buban

OSTEOPOROSIS, A PROgressive disease that makes bones thinner and brittle (and thus, more prone to fracture), is one condition that postmenopausal women would not want to have.

However, this condition makes postmenopausal women more vulnerable considering that the levels of estrogen—the hormone that gives them protection against this disease early in their life—has waned significantly.

Such low bone mass eventually leads to fractures, mostly of the hip and vertebrae, which can be debilitating and sometimes life-threatening.

Aside from taking regular exercise (walking or aerobics) and eating a balanced diet (taking lots of calcium and Vitamin D) one of the often prescribed therapy is taking bisphosphonates, a group of medicines that slows the rate at which bone is dissolved, thus favoring a buildup in bone strength over time.

Oral bisphosphonates are often taken daily, weekly, monthly or every three months, usually first thing in the morning on an empty stomach with a full glass of water. Moreover, the patient should also remain in an upright position for at least 30 minutes afterward.

"Many patients find this inconvenient and they can't tolerate side effects like difficulty swallowing, inflammation of the esophagus, and gastric ulcer. For this reason, they don't take their medicines regularly putting them at risk for crippling, debilitating and life-threatening fractures," lamented professor David Kendler, president of the International Society for Clinical Densitometry and chair of the Western Osteoporosis Alliance.

Kendler was recently here in the country as one of the resource speakers in the 9th annual scientific meeting of the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation.

### Zolendronic acid

During this event, Novartis Healthcare Philippines launched its own brand of zolendronic acid (5 mg dose), the first and only once-yearly treatment for postmenopausal osteoporosis approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and its counterpart in the European Union.

The company said the announcement of the first once a year drug for osteoporosis is timely as World Osteoporosis Day is celebrated today.

Moreover, the Philippines is the first country in the Asia-Pacific region where the zoledronic acid was launched.

Kendler explained that zoledronic acid is the latest addition to a family of medicines called biphosphonates, which prevent the body from breaking down bone.

### More expensive

While zoledronic acid is more expensive than oral biphosphonates, it is given only once a year via intravenous infusion that takes only 15 minutes.

"For the first time, women could have the option of being treated once a year for osteoporosis. As you know, adherence to daily, weekly, monthly or every three months regimen is often a problem as patients often miss the medicine or skip a dose. A once a year treatment ensures that one is fully protected from the complications of osteoporosis," Kendler said.

According to Novartis, Zoledronic acid infusion could be done at infusion centers found at various hospitals with the patient free to go home afterward.

### Drink fluid

It is advised that before getting zoledronic acid, one should drink enough fluids (at least one or two glasses) before the infusion. This will help prevent dehydration and the patient could eat anything on the treatment day.

The US and EU approval came after various clinical trials (involving over 13,000 patients across 40 medical centers) have shown that the drug is safe and effective for treating postmenopausal osteoporosis.

In fact, a recent three-year study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that zoledronic acid reduced the frequency of spine fractures by 70 percent, hip fractures by 41 percent and nonvertebral fractures by 25 percent.

## Fat and fit, lean but unfit?

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—WE KEEP on saying that being fat is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke, but it may be better to be fat and fit, than lean but unfit.

So says Dr. Frank Hu, associate professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health here in Boston. Dr. Hu however stresses: "It's best to be lean and fit."

Dr. Hu was part of an impressive faculty of world experts which discussed insulin resistance, which is now believed to be the common denominator of many medical conditions, from obesity to diabetes to cancer, liver disease, HIV infections and a long list of diseases of the modern world.

Now back to overweight and obesity. Many may confuse body weight and body fat. Most people don't distinguish between the two, but they are actually two different things and knowing the difference is essential to determine whether or not one needs to lose weight to remain healthy.

### Body weight

What we refer to as our body weight is the number we see on the weighing scale, either in pounds or kilograms. Technically, our body weight is actually a function of our body mass multiplied by the acceleration of gravity. But to simplify matters, let's just concentrate on the reading on the weighing scale. That's our weight.

To assess whether one is overweight or not, a standard formula has been used by many clinicians to determine what one's ideal body weight is based on one's height. Roughly, one's ideal body weight in kilograms is one's height in centimeters minus 100. One inch is 2.54 centimeters, and one kilogram is 2.2 pounds.

"Overweight" therefore connotes excessive weight for one's height, based on the formula or some predetermined "average" standards outlined in height-weight charts. An important fact however is missed in the computation. The weight is only an indication of heaviness, but inadequately factors in the body composition, consisting of bones, muscles and fat. Muscles and bones are called lean body mass and weigh more than fat.

### Body fat

Fat comes in two types: essential fat and storage fat. Essential fat is needed by the body to remain alive and function well. We can't survive long if we're completely devoid of fats. In fact, every cell of the body has some amount of fats. So essential fats are stored in practically all tissues and organs of the body.

Storage fat is that we find beneath the skin (subcutaneous) which serves as a reservoir for energy during times of fasting or famine.

Over the last few years, research has shown that storage fat in the abdomen—also called visceral fat—is the vicious type of fat associated with all sorts of cardiovascular complications. Although it protects internal organs from trauma, it also secretes hormones which can constrict the arteries and make the blood clot easily.

### Obesity

Health experts are now saying it's okay to have fats anywhere else except in the abdomen. Belly fat is risky. Pear-shaped type of obesity (more fats on the hips) is not so bad; but an apple type of obesity (abdominal or visceral fatness) can lead one to the emergency room, or the morgue.

Women, because of their hormones and child-bearing, have three to four times more essential fat than men. The amount of storage fat is similar in both men and women.

Total body fat (essential and storage) is approximately 10 to 18 percent in men, and 16 to 25 percent in women. True obesity is defined as excessive fats, or greater than 25 percent body fat for men and 30 percent for women.

An old way of measuring body fat is through skinfold measurements, where the thickness of fat tissue just under the skin at various sites on the body is measured. Another old way, admittedly tedious, is by underwater weighing, which uses special equipment to calculate body fat. Nowadays, special scales are available that determine body fat just by standing on them.

### Waist circumference

A practical and very easy way to determine if one has a little too much of the bad type of fat (visceral or abdominal fat) is by simply measuring the waist circumference at the level of the navel or umbilicus. In Asians, more than 90 centimeters (35.5 inches) in women or more than 80 centimeters (31.5 inches) in men strongly suggest a visceral type of obesity.

In the presence of other risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol problems, increased waist circumference indicates that the individual has the "Metabolic Syndrome" which increases the risk of heart attack and stroke four to five-fold.

### Where the fat is

So where the fat is, is more important than how much of it the body has.

So one may be overweight according to a weight chart but have a healthy body fat composition consisting more of muscles and very little of visceral fat. Athletes belong to this category. They have dense muscle tissue, hence, their weight is heavier, but with a healthy body composition.

On the other hand, a person can have a normal weight, or may even be underweight according to the height/weight charts, yet still have an unhealthy level of body fat especially abdominal fat. He is medically obese.

Many sedentary people belong to this category. They may look lean but unfit, and are at high risk for cardiovascular complications without them realizing it. Excuse me please while I measure my waist circumference.

## Skin deep: The 1988 Chemistry Nobel Prize

EUREKA!

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

IMAGE IS EVERYTHING, AS the saying goes, and daily, we assess people and situations by their surface details. Our decisions are guided by what our senses tell us, and these are mostly, yes, superficial.

While the term "superficial" often has a negative connotation, says Karen G. Manalastas, Assistant Instructor at the Ateneo de Manila University Chemistry Department, it is only through the superficial that we can interact with the world. While our insides are important, they play a minimal role in our actual dealings with our environment. Our surface features—eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin—sense and respond to stimuli. Other animals survive in this fashion, and so do plants, bacteria and all other living organisms we know.

How about the world of the very small? Manalastas tells us more about this fascinating realm. When we zoom into the level of our individual cells, we find that this is also the way they do business—through surface-to-surface interactions. But instead of the familiar five senses, cells mainly interact with other cells and with their environment through membrane proteins.

### Skin deep

In grade school, we learn that proteins are the primary building blocks of cells. They represent the bulk of the matter comprising an organism, and they keep the body up and running. From digestion and growth to our immune response—all these are powered by proteins.

Membrane proteins are found—where else—in the outer membranes of cells. They are usually exposed to both the interior of the cell and the environment outside it, so they mediate between these two parts, and they also serve as channels for communication between two cells.

The membrane proteins have a special structure. They have both water-soluble, and water-insoluble parts, which has made working with such proteins a difficult task for a long time.

### Membrane proteins

This view changed in the 1980s, when a group of German scientists, including Hartmut Michel, Johann Deisenhofer and Robert Huber, managed to purify a membrane protein from a certain bacterium that can do photosynthesis. The three scientists were able to extract a complex protein that converts light to a form useful for making food. Suddenly, the membrane proteins could be purified, through the creativity and hard work of the scientists. In 1988, the three scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Today, more membrane proteins have been purified and analyzed structurally, and more diseases have been linked to malfunctioning membrane proteins. Michel estimates that as of 2003, more than half of the drugs used to treat disease act directly on membrane proteins. Membrane proteins have also been linked to asthma, obesity and Parkinson's disease. Scientists now aim to study the structure of more membrane proteins, which can be applied to drug development for particular diseases.

### Nobel Prize winner in RP

Michel earned his doctoral degree at the University of Würzburg. He is now director of the Department of Molecular Membrane Biology, at the Max Planck Institute of Biophysics.

In early January next year, Michel visits the Philippines with other Nobel Laureates at the Tenth Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences. For more information, visit http://eurasiachem10.philippinechem.org or email eurasiachem10@yahoo.com.

* * *

Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

## Diabetes management and treatment

By Gigi Custodio

ACCORDING TO DR. SJOBERG ANG KHO, a Binondo-based endocrinologist, diabetes management and treatment usually combines good nutrition, physical activity and pharmacologic therapies or medicines.

The overall goals of nutrition therapy include achievement and/or maintenance of near-normal blood glucose and blood pressure levels, optimal serum lipid levels and reasonable weight, the prevention of acute and long-term complications, optimal nutrition and physical activity, and consideration of personal and cultural preferences and lifestyle.

There is no one diet prescription for people with diabetes. Four possible alternative methods for planning diets use:

- The Plate Model
- The Diabetic Exchange Lists
- Carbohydrate Counting
- The Food Guide Pyramid

The fact that those suffering from diabetes are from the productive age group has economic implications for the country. A lot of Filipinos who could have been employed and productive are currently unproductive; their medical needs are becoming a huge economic burden to their families as well.

"What is more alarming is that in the next decade, if the prevalence rate and the trends do not change, the diabetic population in the Philippines may balloon by 50 percent," shared Kho, a brilliant endocrinologist, who chose to practice in the heart of Binondo to provide the Tsinoy community with access to expert care and management of diabetes.

Aside from nutrition and physical activities, Kho recommends starting diabetic patients on medications. One could combine medications that increase insulin sensitivity with those that improve insulin secretion. One of these medications is the recently BFAD-approved medicine for Type 2 diabetes called Januvia (sitagliptin).

Kho said "Januvia helps prevent the rapid destruction of the beneficial incretins, so it may continue to stimulate pancreatic insulin secretion to lower blood sugar level. What is nice about this new drug is that it acts in a glucose-dependent manner as it works when blood sugar is elevated and shots down once normal glucose level is

DIABETES/ B7

# How IT improves heart disease cure

CAREPLUS

*Angelo Palmones*

PREVIOUSLY, WE NOTED HOW INFORmation technology or IT improves the quality of care of patients with cardiovascular diseases (CVD). In today's column, a noted cardiologist explains the nitty-gritty of heart disease data banking.

Thanks to research and modern technology, risk factors have been identified and significant advances made in CVD treatment. However, risk factors vary widely from country to country, with socioeconomic and cultural factors coming into play.

### Awareness needed

"To address the overall health burden of CVD in the country, health professionals must be aware of disease frequency and risk factors prevalent among patients," according to Dr. Antonio S. Sibulo Jr., director of the St. Luke's Heart Institute and past president of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA) and Asean Federation of Cardiology.

Moreover, Dr. Sibulo continues, health professionals need an organized clinical information gathering and storage system that can accurately assess patient demographic profile, quality of patient care and the actual impact of the different cardiovascular treatment strategies and technologies on treatment outcomes. "Such a system provides data that help us benchmark standards of quality care, which translate to higher levels of patient safety and success of care."

### Most ambitious project

In 2004, the St. Luke's Heart Institute launched its Cardiovascular Disease Information System (CVDIS), the first, most advanced and most ambitious project of its kind in the field of cardiovascular informatics in the Philippines.

The CVDIS is a unique modular information system that collects clinical, demographic and procedure-specific information from all patient encounters at the Institute's cardiovascular units. The data are quality controlled and encoded at each cardiovascular unit then electronically downloaded to a central storage server. The system is designed to generate standardized procedural reports and store such data in the form of patient-specific electronic files in cardiovascular disease. From 2005 to August 2007, the system has compiled 134,806 procedural records of 66,740 patients.

Data gathered from the Heart Institute's exercise ECG laboratory in 2006 alone indicate that the top three CVD risk factors among almost 8,000 patients were family history of heart disease, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. "No adverse events were noted in more than 14,000 procedures, affirming the high standards of safety and technical proficiency of the laboratory staff," Dr. Sibulo says.

### Over 1,000 patients

Since going online in 2004, the CVDIS has enrolled more than a thousand patients undergoing cardiac rehabilitation. Seventy percent of patients were male. Top risk factors reported were high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking , obesity and diabetes. No procedural complications were noted.

In 2006, the Department of Invasive Cardiology reported a total of more than 1,600 patients who underwent coronary angiogram and angioplasty. Angioplasty success rate was 98.7 percent, with a low rate of adverse events at less than 2 percent, all not life-threatening. Data gathered for 2007 to date indicate a 100 percent procedural success rate for stent implantation and plain balloon dilatation. Almost 7 out of 10 patients were men. Top risk factors reported for those undergoing coronary angioplasty were (in descending order) high blood pressure, high cholesterol, prior angina (chest pain), smoking and diabetes. Prevalence for hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes were higher than the nationwide rate.

"These data tell us that once cardiovascular disease is present, the number of risk factors increase and their significance become more pronounced," Dr. Sibulo explains.

### Heart surgeries

Sixty-five percent of the 303 heart surgeries at the Heart Institute in 2006 were coronary bypass procedures. Average age was 58 for male patients and 67 for women. Top risk factors for bypass patients were high blood pressure, high cholesterol, prior heart disease, and diabetes. Coronary bypass success rate was 98.98 percent.

"The CVDIS provides a powerful clinical data base that enables St. Luke's Heart Institute to evaluate its performance and keep it at par with the world's best cardiac centers. It helps us make recommendations to maintain and upgrade quality of care as well as conduct research to further the science of cardiovascular medicine—all for the benefit of the cardiac patient," Dr. Sibulo said.

* * *

*Angelo Palmones is a science and technology broadcaster. For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.*

# To protect and stick

DISCOVER

*Massie Santos Ballon*

WALLS MAY HAVE EARS, BUT SOON they may not have holes.

Landlords, who used to finding toothpaste used as temporary spackling material, might one day be surprised to actually find the walls untouched. Tenants, who might have furtively hammered in nails to hang their posters and wall decor, might not have to explain away the minty-fresh fragrance of their rooms come move-out day.

And when this happens, hardware stores may find they're selling less nails and hooks as people rely on other materials to hang art and personal belongings on the wall.

### Hole-less walls

The prospect of hole-less walls is just one of the many possibilities offered by engineers from Northwestern University. As reported in the July 19 issue of the journal Nature, researchers Haeshin Lee and Phillip Messersmith teamed up with Nerites Corp. to develop a new adhesive product.

To prevent hammering forbidden holes into the walls, many companies offer alternatives like suction cups and double-sided tape. But suction cups don't always hold, and tape sticks too well, leaving unsightly marks on the wall. One company has been marketing hooks with an adhesive that they promise will stay on and yet can be easily removed with no marks.

Previous adhesive research had focused on a gecko's ability to walk on walls. Maybe you've found yourself wondering just how the little brown *butiki* get around like Spiderman (or Spider Pig, if you've seen the movie) does.

The lizards stay stuck because of millions of little hairs on the bottoms of their feet. (Spider Pig fans might safely attribute the pig's ability to walk on the ceiling to Homer Simpson.) Think of the hairs as a sort of natural and silent Velcro: the hairs make each foot stick to the surface, but the lizard can peel his foot off and place it elsewhere at anytime.

Lee et al. took the sticking power of the gecko one step further. The lizard-inspired adhesives in development only work on dry surfaces so they decided to give their product the ability to stick to wet surfaces as well.

### Geckel-based material

To adhere under wet conditions, Lee et al. turned to mussels. They identified and synthesized just what made these creatures stick, and then combined with their gecko-inspired adhesive. The result: a nature-based product they proudly call "geckel."

Tests to prove their concept actually works have indicated that tiny amounts of geckel-based material can stick to a wall underwater. Geckel has also shown the ability to stick to both smooth and rough surfaces, which could be useful in the long run for construction work. Most importantly, their tests so far also suggest geckel material can be peeled off and reused several times before losing its sticky properties. There's no indication, though, that geckel can be used for more realistic, heavier weights yet.

### Many uses

Once that becomes feasible, there are many long-term applications. For example, imagine having to change a flat tire alone off a busy highway during a dark and stormy night. Having such a geckel-based adhesive to attach the flashlight to the car at the right angle could speed up the tire-changing process and avoid serious injury.

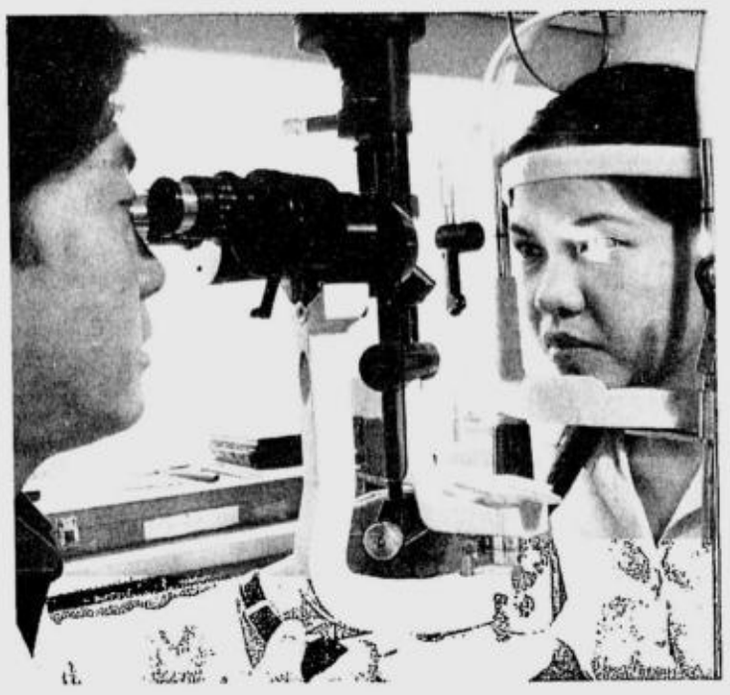
Nerites, a commercial adhesive company from the state of Wisconsin, sees applications for geckel with their own medical device products. Water-resistant, self-sticking bandages that can be peeled off and then rewrapped around an injury are just some of the applications they foresee for geckel.

Lee et al.'s product has many potential uses, but it may take a while to get the products on the market. In the meantime, tenants who have to maintain pristine walls may want to seek other solutions for hanging art where no hooks or nails are present.

And if you've already put holes in white walls where no holes should be, try not to reach for the toothpaste. Unless you have the plain white paste kind, using your favorite brand might only accentuate the holes' locations and focus attention on what you're trying to hide.

* * *

*E-mail the author at massie@massie.com*



# *What you need to know about cataracts*

AFTER A LONG AND SUCcessful career in the corporate world, Neomi Olivares retired to mind the home and attend to the day-to-day chores. But for one used to working almost every day, she decided to pick up a hobby—making necklaces and bracelets out of beads and other ornaments.

The work demanded close attention to detail as she personally designed and strung up the bracelets themselves. But after a while the beads—small as they already are—began to appear fuzzy. Mrs. Olivares thought that maybe the lamp and overhead lights had dimmed making it hard to see. Only it wasn't so. So she went to see an ophthalmologist thinking that maybe the grade of her glasses had gone up. Instead she was diagnosed with having a cataract on her right eye.

### Another dreaded 'C'

A cataract is a painless clouding of the lens of the eye that develops over a long period of time where one's eyesight gradually worsens. If not treated, it could lead to blindness. In America alone, over 1.5 million cataract surgeries are performed every year.

Although medical research has shown that a third of people over 60 years old have cataracts in one or both eyes, they can occur at any age.

For younger people, it can be contracted because of a chronic medical condition, eye trauma, or substance abuse. Exposure to infection and radiation during pregnancy are risk factors for congenital cataracts.

As for adults, the risk factors may include smoking, the use of drugs, and deficiencies in certain vitamins and minerals. Prolonged exposure to sunlight, specifically ultraviolet B (UVB), is one other risk factor for cataracts. Medical conditions such as diabetes, myotonic dystrophy, or Wilson's disease increase the risk for cataracts, regardless of age.

Thus, cataracts can be grouped into the following:

- Senile or age-related cataracts
- Congenital cataracts are present at birth yet are rare. But have to be diagnosed early on since vision is one of the most important parts.
- Secondary cataracts are those induced by drugs and other substance abuse.
- Traumatory cataracts that arise from blunt physical force that penetrates the eyes.

### Seeking treatment

Some people deal with their deteriorating vision by wearing glasses, seeking immediate treatment, or even by delaying treatment. Strange as it may sound, not every instance of acquiring a cataract means immediate attention. If one's vision is still good, he or she might not require cataract surgery not for many years.

But if it interferes with one's vision or with the treatment of other eye problems such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or retinal detachment, then immediate surgery is recommended.

For people with diabetes, the need for surgery is immediate because their condition accelerates the growth of the cataract. In the case of Mrs. Olivares, her doctor advised that it was too early to operate because it was a mild case. Given the smallness of the cataract, it was suggested that any procedure might unnecessarily put the eye at risk.

### Surgery

There are two types of surgeries to remove cataracts: extracapsular cataract extraction (ECCE) or intracapsular cataract extraction (ICCE).

ECCE consists of using high frequency sound waves to remove the cloudy lens while leaving the majority of the lens capsule intact.

ICCE, on the other hand, is a procedure wherein the entire eye lens and capsule is removed and replaced with a plastic, acrylic, or silicone lens that stays in the eye permanently.

These treatments are normally an outpatient procedure that takes less than an hour with local anesthesia required for the patient who must remain awake during the procedure. Cataract surgery is available at Healthway Medical clinics that can be found in leading shopping malls in Metro Manila.

Normally, one can go home right after the surgery, but activities that require physical exertion must be limited while driving or playing sports should be all together restricted.

Although the healing process just takes a few days, if the surgery requires bigger incisions, the recovery phase may take up to two months.. But after which, one's eyesight will be just as good if not even better.

### Preventive measures

There are several ways one can go about in preventing cataracts. Some of these are generally known but are taken for granted nevertheless. Medical authorities strongly advise strict adherence to them:

- Simple everyday habits such as the frequent washing of hands prevents eye infection when we touch or rub our eyes.
- When engaging in high-risk physical activities, protective eyewear is most definitely a huge help. For outdoors people, it is always best to minimize exposure to he harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Using UV protective eyewear helps.
- Substance abuse has been cautioned and warned against ad infinitum. There's a reason they are banned. Even the intake of drugs like steroids is eventually harmful.
- The adequate management of diabetes mellitus. Conditions like this hasten the growth of cataracts.

o And although it hasn't been proven clinically, doctors also recommend the regular intake of antioxidants such as vitamin C and E.

But for whatever reason, the moment one finds his/her vision impaired, he or she should go see a doctor immediately. Life is a precious gift and so is one's sight.

## KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

### Are you a 'travelholic'?

BY NOW, MOST OF YOU KIDS ARE enjoying the good ol' semestral break. Save for the summer sun, this season is also high time for packing and unpacking those travel bags, lounging on the sand or flying to anywhere in the world. Some do enjoy just plain biking around town. So what's your pick?

But before you fasten your seatbelts and put those feet on your pedals, try our weekly quiz. Get to know the pioneers of our various modes of transport—them who made it possible for us to hop from one place to another.

Match the kind of transportation on the left with its inventor on the right. Enjoy kiddos!

| Transportation | Inventor |
|---|---|
| 1. locomotive | a) Dean Kamen |
| 2. airplane | b) Igor Sikorsky |
| 3. helicopter | c) Ferdinand von Zeppelin |
| 4. steamboat | d) Richard Trevithick |
| 5. submarine | e) Phoenicians |
| 6. bicycle | f) Robert Fulton |
| 7. wooden ships | g) Joseph and Etienne Montgofier |
| 8. dirigible | h) Henry Ford |
| 9. Segway | I) Cornelius Drebbel |
| 10. automobile | j) Pierre Lallement |
| | k) Wilbur and Orville Wright |

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

ANSWERS: 1-d, 2-k,3-b, 4-f, 5-i, 6-j, 7-e, 8-c, 9-a, 10-h

# Diabetes management . . .

From page B6

reached, minimizing the chance of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)."

### Signs and symptoms

If you notice any of the signs and symptoms listed here, schedule an appointment with your doctor. He or she will be able to tell you if you have reasons to be concerned about a diagnosis of diabetes. Diabetes is often referred also as the silent killer because the signs and symptoms of the disease are not as dramatic as that of other catastrophic illnesses and are often disregarded by us.

Many of the signs of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes are similar. In both, there is too much glucose in the blood and not enough in the cells of your body. High glucose levels in Type 1 are due to a lack of insulin because the insulin-producing cells have been destroyed. Type 2 diabetes occurs when there is sluggish insulin secretion and the body's cells become resistant to insulin that is being produced. In either way, your cells aren't getting the glucose that they need, and your body lets you know by giving you these signs and symptoms.

- **Frequent trips to the bathroom.** Are you visiting the bathroom much more lately? Does it seem like you urinate all day long? Urination becomes more frequent when there is too much glucose in the blood. If insulin is nonexistent or ineffective, the kidneys can't reabsorb glucose back to the blood and glucose is spilled in urine. The spilled glucose bring with it a lot of water creating larger urine volume. This keeps your bladder full and it keeps you running to the bathroom.
- **Unquenchable thirst.** If it feels like you can't get enough water and you're drinking much more than usual, it could be a sign of diabetes, especially if it seems to go hand in hand with frequent urination. If your body is pulling extra water out of your blood and you're running to the bathroom more, you will become dehydrated and feel the need to drink more to replace the water that you are losing.
- **Losing weight without trying.** This symptom is more noticeable with Type 1 diabetes. In Type 1, the pancreas stops making insulin, possibly due to a viral attack on pancreas cells or because an autoimmune response makes the body attack the insulin-producing cells. The body desperately looks for an energy source because the cells aren't getting glucose. It starts to break down muscle tissue and fat for energy. Type 2 happens gradually with increasing insulin resistance so weight loss is not as noticeable.
- **Weakness and fatigue.** It's that bad boy glucose again. Glucose from the food we eat travels into the bloodstream where insulin is supposed to help its transition into the cells of our body. The cells use it to produce the energy we need to live. When the insulin isn't there or if the cells don't react to it anymore, then the glucose stays outside the cells in the bloodstream. The cells become energy starved and you feel tired and run down.
- **Tingling or numbness in your hands, legs or feet.** This symptom is called neuropathy. It occurs gradually over time as consistently high glucose in the blood damages the nervous system, particularly in the extremities. Type 2 diabetes is a gradual onset, and people are often not aware that they have it. Therefore, blood sugar might have been high for more than a few years before a diagnosis is made. Nerve damage can creep up without our knowledge. Neuropathy can very often improve when tighter blood glucose control is achieved.
- **Other signs and symptoms that can occur.** Blurred vision, skin that is dry or itchy, frequent infections or cuts and bruises that take a long time to heal are also signs that something is amiss. Again, when these signs are associated with diabetes, they are the result of high glucose levels in the body.

# BUSINESS

# Program to address climate change now in place

## Task force cites threat of global warming to RP

By Abigail L. Ho

SEEKING TO MITIGATE THE adverse effects of climate change on the country, the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change (PTFCC) has prepared an integrated national program that involves significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the country's energy mix in the next few years.

According to the strategic framework and action plan formulated by the task force, appropriate adaptation responses would be designed to address vulnerabilities of sectors and areas that would be greatly affected by climate change.

"Scientific studies indicate that as a country we contribute very little by way of greenhouse gas emissions, which give rise to global warming. Ironically, our archipelago—by reason of terrain and location—is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change," task force head and Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a briefing yesterday.

"Global warming, which is an effect of climate change, could threaten the Philippines' food and water supply, along with the health, livelihood and habitats of communities," he added.

To achieve its objectives, the task force will tap various financial resources, including official development assistance funds and technical assistance.

It will also explore market-based incentives, such as tradable emission permits, develop targeted subsidies, and introduce innovative lending schemes and other means of financing, according to the national plan.

Technology transfer schemes will also be put in place.

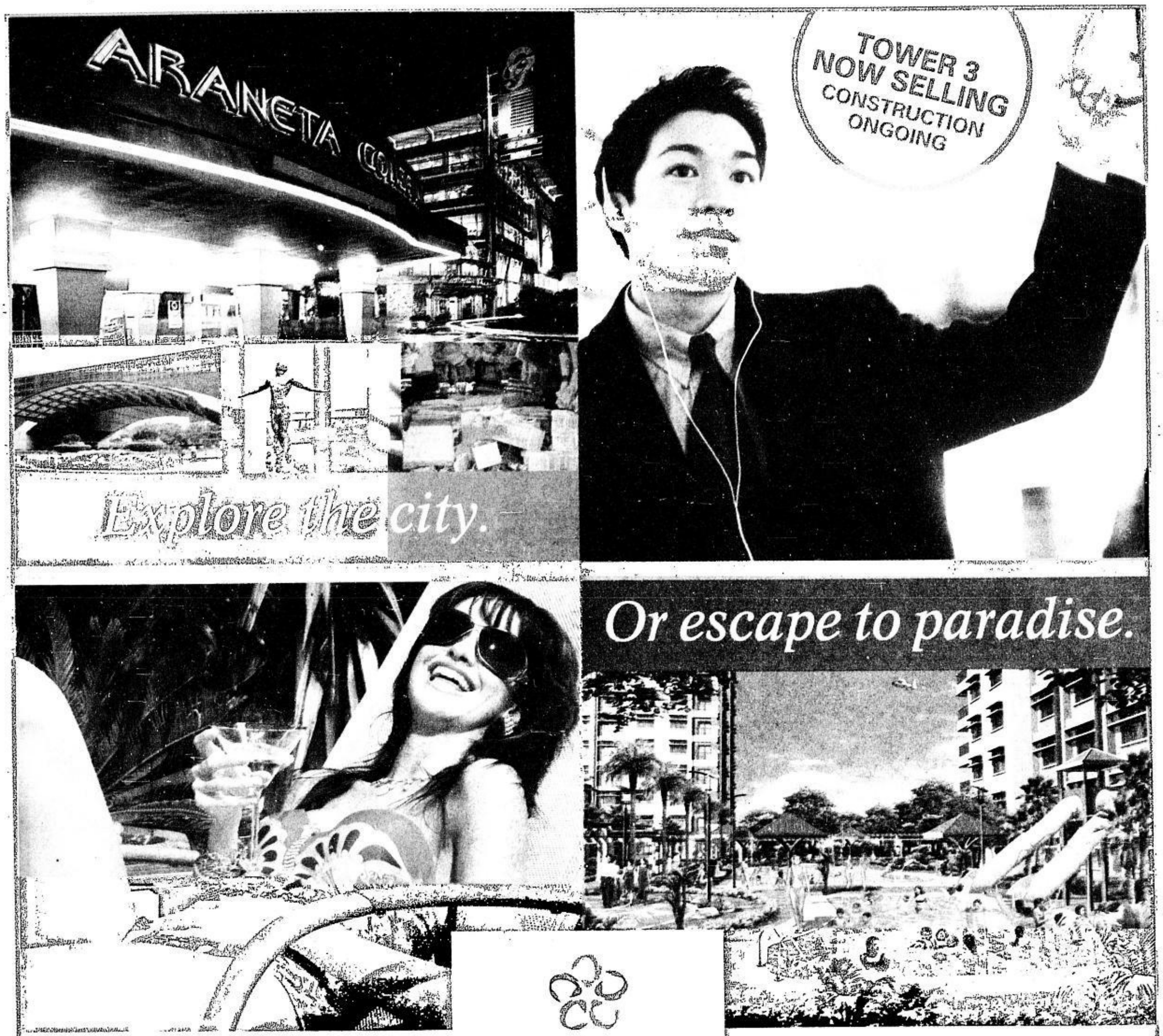
"In support of mitigation strategies, climate-friendly technologies have to be shared with local communities and sectors to establish low-carbon infrastructure for transportation, energy, agriculture, industry and settlements," the national plan stated.

"The task force will lead in forging bilateral agreements, regional cooperation and multilateral action to facilitate transfer of technology," it added.

Reyes said key to the successful implementation of the climate change response program was "social mobilization," which would bring the effort down to the consumer level.

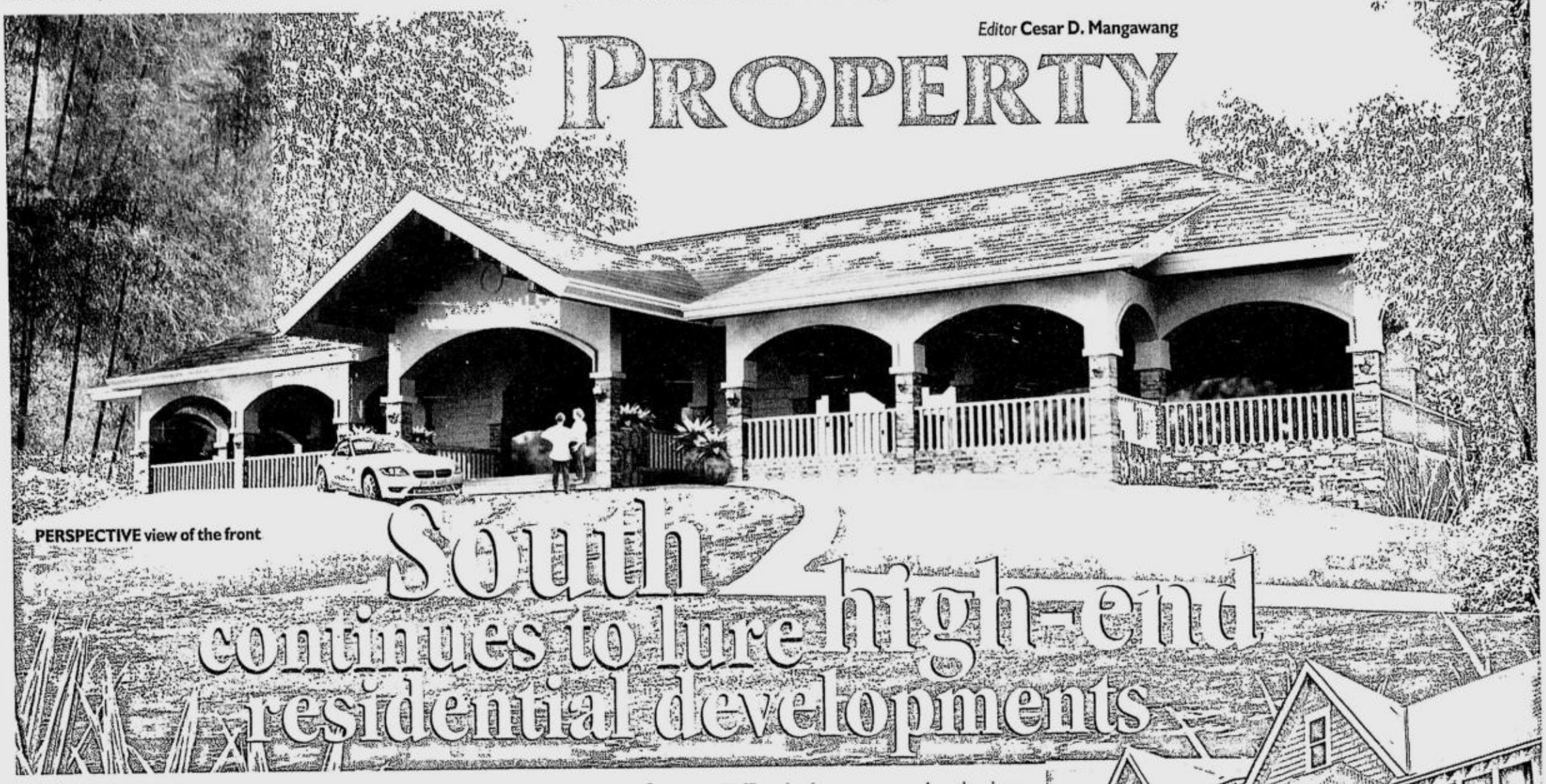
This way, he said it would not just be the government that would implement the climate change response strategies, but also each individual by way of a lifestyle change.

To ensure successful social mobilization, he said the task force would tap local government units in the implementation of mitigation measures and in education and information dissemination.

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY



PERSPECTIVE view of the front

# South continues to lure high-end residential developments

By Tessa R. Salazar

DEVELOPERS SEEM TO show no signs of slowing down insofar as setting up new upscale developments south of Metro Manila and beyond is concerned.

Adding to the reputable mix of middle and high-end residential developments such as Ayala's 1,600 hectare Nuvali in Canlubang (with Ayala Premier in it) and Fil-Estate's P2.5-billion project in Batangas is SM Development Corp's high-end residences at Susana Heights.

SM Development Corp. recently cited to the INQUIRER Property the two high-end market possibilities:

• One addresses the market that chooses to simply live in urban centers and stay in a small condominium where convenience and accessibility is a primary concern.

> To continue to city-fy natural habitats and the suburbs is not sustainable in the long term

• The other addresses those who choose a bigger living space in single-detached homes where going home during the weekends could be a form of "natural recharging"—away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Carlos V. Chikiamco, vice president and project director of Lindenwood Residences at Susana Heights, also said a niche market exists for those who want that suburban lifestyle in spite of the accessibility and the travel time.

"Offhand, these are people who have been raised in the south and who just continue to set up their own homes in the same environment. This is the market that Lindenwood seeks to address itself to."

### Why Susana Heights?

Susana Heights was chosen for Lindenwood Residences "primarily because of its location and the familiarity of the public to easily locate it as very near well-developed areas such as Ayala Alabang and Filinvest Corporate City."

"We have envisioned Lindenwood to be a quaint, charming, neighborly, residential development of sufficient greens and trees to contrast it to city living. The natural beauty of Lindenwood has lent itself to this kind of development," Chikiamco said.

Concerns for traffic congestion brought by the flood of growth in the southern suburbs has been eased via the promise of im-

SOUTH/ B2-2

TYPICAL abode of SMDC's upscale home at Susana Heights

LINDENWOOD RESIDENCES
at Susana Heights

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# Typhoon-resistant houses

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

*Amado de Jesus*

OUR COUNTRY IS VISITED YEARLY by 19 tropical cyclones on the average. A tropical depression occurs when wind velocity reaches 63 kilometers per hour. At 64-118 kph, it is a storm. There is a typhoon when the wind velocity is over 118 kph. Almost all of them are accompanied by rain, at times, very strong rain.

Pagasa's ranking of frequency of tropical cyclones passing over provinces lists the following provinces in the order of most frequency: Batanes, Cagayan, Quezon, Aurora, Kalinga-Apayao, Abra, Northern Samar, Eastern and Western Samar, Ilocos Sur, Mindoro, Isabela, Leyte, Camarines Sur, Ilocos Norte, Cebu, Masbate, Albay, and so on.

## Typhoon-resistant houses

With this weather condition, how do we design typhoon-resistant houses?

As a general rule, a one-story house is less likely to suffer wind damage than a two-story house. In low-lying areas, houses may be built on concrete blocks or wood one or two feet above ground so that flood waters can flow underneath. Due to coastal erosion, houses should follow the rule on keeping distance from the seashore.

Houses supported by four reinforced concrete columns about 10 feet apart can withstand water or wind force more than a traditional concrete hollow block house. In between the columns homeowners may use local materials of wood or bamboo for the walls.

It is also preferable to have several corner offsets to make the house stronger. The small rectangular house is easily damaged by typhoons.

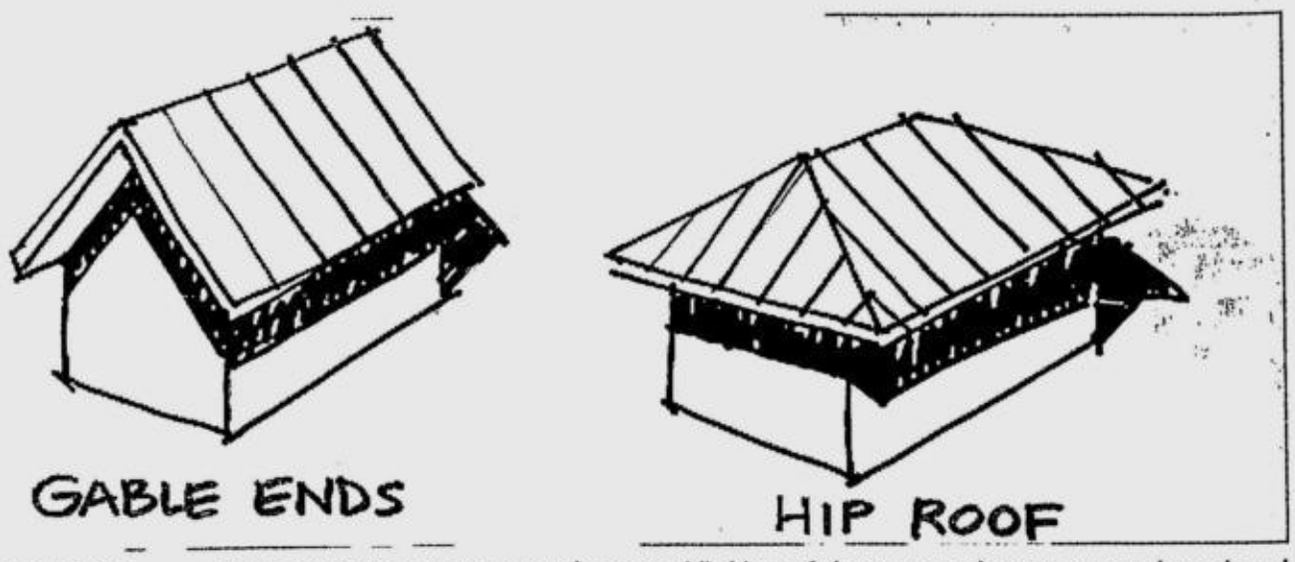
A strong and durable roof is the answer to rain infiltration because water, more than wind, is the cause of most storm-related damage.

## Roof design factors

The roof being the most important protection from the rain and wind must be designed based on the following factors.

A hip roof, popularly known as cuatro aguas, with more corners and angles is stronger than a gable (dos aguas) or high-pitched roof. It has stronger aerodynamics and is more wind resistant than gables. The hip roof has the advantage of providing an overhang which is effective for protecting the house from rainwater and from direct sunlight.

The wind flows smoothly over a hip roof, in whatever direction the wind comes from. In contrast, a gable roof can easily be damaged if the strong wind hits the roof at a wrong angle.




**GABLE ROOFING** (dos aguas) is particularly prone to storm damage, while hip roofs (cuatro aguas) are more aerodynamic and more wind resistant.

Low-pitched roofs encourage uplift. This is what happens with many low-budget homes with almost flat roofs and inadequate anchoring. At the first sign of a strong storm, the roof is easily blown away.

The ideal slope of the roof has a pitch between 1:2 and 1:3, or a ratio of 1 meter vertical measure to 2 meters horizontal measure up to 1 meter vertical to 3 meters horizontal.

Whether wooden or steel structural members are used for the roof trusses or rafters, it is critically important to anchor these to load-bearing portions of the house.

Roof vents should be protected with eaves and louvers to prevent rainwater penetration. Extend the fascia board to terminate below the underside of the ceiling eaves line. This will prevent water from dripping to the eaves ceiling and eventually to the wooden ceiling supports.

Another strategy is to ensure that the wall system is properly anchored or strapped from the foundation to the roof. This is to ensure a continuous rigid support linking the roof to the foundation.

## Doors and windows

Sliding doors are safer to use than hinged doors especially in typhoon-prone areas. An outward swinging door is preferable in places of high winds due to its resistance against rainwater infiltration.

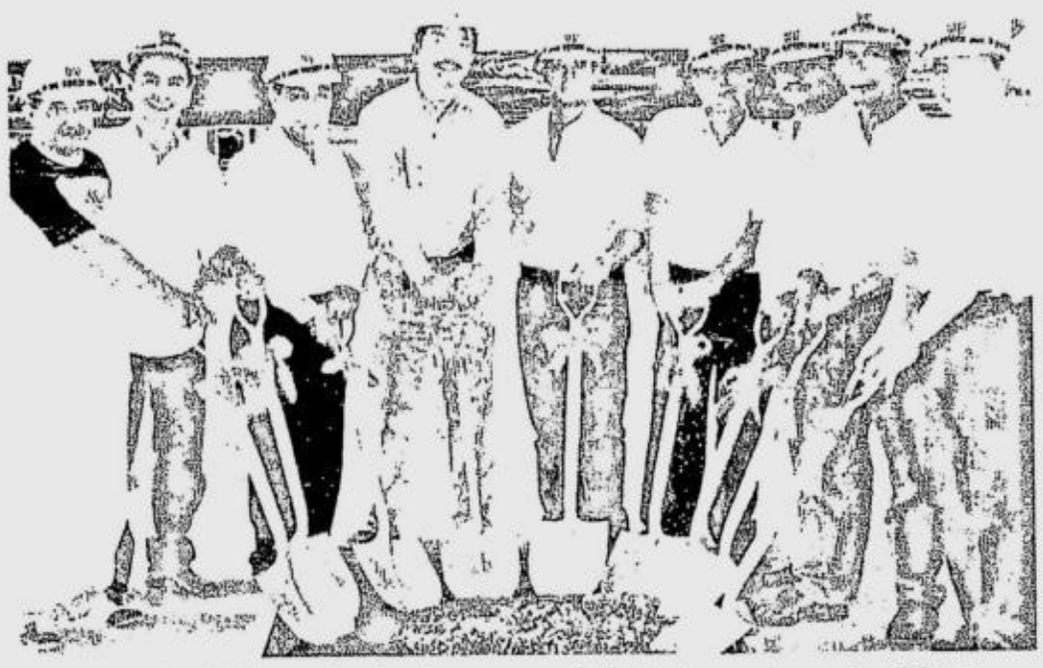
High-performance glass or laminated glass for windows combat strong winds. It may also be used in combination with wooden shutters that will protect glass during a storm.

Community involvement is highly recommended in areas often visited by natural disasters such as typhoons.

Storm shelters may be built in community centers where a large number of people seek refuge during strong typhoons. Built on high ground, and using good roofing and walling techniques, with strong doors and windows, these shelters will save many lives.

* * *

*For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.*



**KEY officers from Robinsons Land and partners mark the first concrete pouring of Three Adriatico Place. From left are Torque Builders VP-Operations Ronnie Simbulan, Constech Management Inc. VP-Operations Ben Cabral, D.M. Consunji Inc. GM for construction Edilberto C. Palisoc, Robinsons Land AVP-Project Management engineer Manny G. Arce, W.V. Coscolluela and Associates Architects Gil Coscolluela and Romy Lihi, E.D.B. Inc. president Ernesto D. Buenviaje, L.M. Camus Engineering area manager Rene Parada, D.M. Consunji Inc. area manager Gerry Punzal.**

# Adriatico Residences marks construction milestones

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. EXHIBITS ANEW its leadership in the real estate industry as it marked significant developments in the construction of Two Adriatico Place and Three Adriatico Place in Ermita, Manila.

Key officers from Robinsons Land and partners Torque Builders, Constech Management Inc., D.M. Consunji Inc., W.V. Coscolluela and Associates, Camus Engineering Corp. and E.D.B. Inc. graced the recently held ceremonial topping off of Two Adriatico Place and First Concrete Pouring of Three Adriatico Place.

Robinsons Land Vice President for Business Development Mybelle V. Aragon-GoBio shares, "We are proud to note that while these two residential condominium projects were launched months apart, construction for both projects are simultaneously ongoing as we were able to hasten development of the third tower."

## Excellent track record

She adds that while "Robinsons Land has been known for its excellent track record in delivering projects, we foresee that we will further surpass expectations by turning over both these projects, before their respective due dates."

Robinsons Land's formidable status in the real estate sector has been brought about by its best-selling residential condominiums, which have earned the confidence of both local and international markets.

## Projects

Robinsons Place Residences, one of the initial projects offered to the market, is also located in Ermita. Its other projects are situated in Manila, Ortigas, Bonifacio Global City, Pioneer and Parañaque, addressing the need of the market for high-quality residential condominiums in strategic locations.

Robinsons Land is the real-estate arm of JG Summit Holdings Inc., one of the country's largest conglomerates with diverse interests in branded consumers foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunications, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services.

Pertinent information on the company and its projects may be viewed at www.robinsonsproperties.com.ph. You may also e-mail properties@robinsonsland.com or call 636-0888 or 0922-8380888.

# Landco's trademark infinity pool at TRIbeca Private Residences

THE INFINITY POOL IS ONE OF the many luxuries that residents and guests of Landco Pacific Corp.'s developments enjoy. A feature in its seaside communities in Batangas and its leisure farms in Tagaytay, it is an amenity that urban dwellers will soon need not to travel far to enjoy through TRIbeca Private Residences.

Landco is known for always offering the market something unique and special in its developments and the infinity pool is one of the many features that it has made popular.

## Most popular features

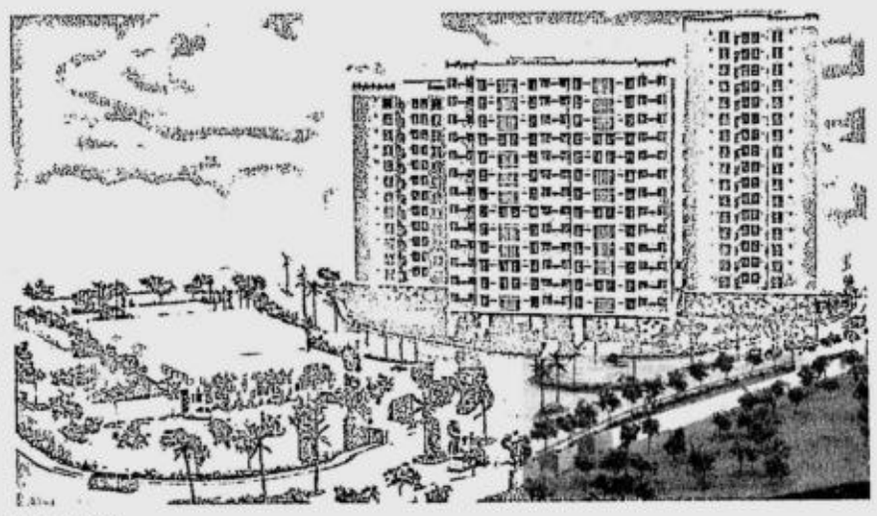
It was first seen in its exclusive seaside community, Peninsula de Punta Fuego in Batangas in the 1990s. A vast two-tiered stretch of blue reaching out to the South China Sea, it immediately became the development's most popular features.

And just as Peninsula's is expansive, Terrazas de Punta Fuego's is cozier. This more beach-oriented residential resort of Landco incorporated a single-deck version of the infinity pool into its more closely-knit terrace-type community.

To complement Leisure Farms' vast wide spaces of lush greens, Landco again reinvented the infinity pool—this time as a broad expanse of blue that seems to touch the Tagaytay skyline.

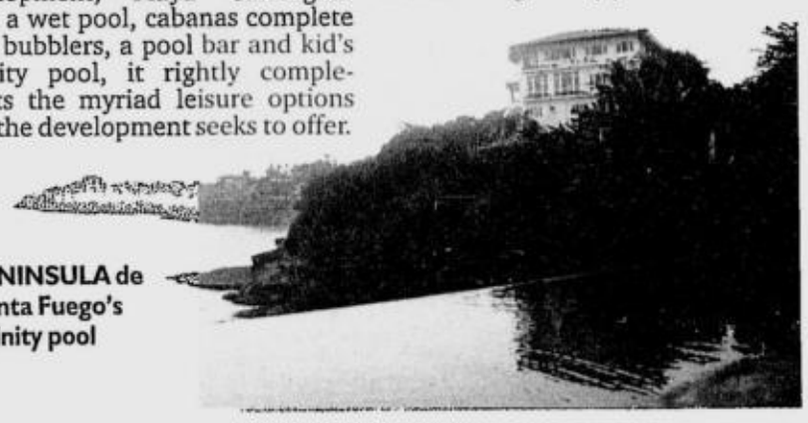
Ponderosa Leisure Farms' 53-hectare residential flower garden community likewise had its touch of blue. Its negative edge pool—an inground pool that gives the illusion that the water does not end—further highlighted the development's Paradise theme.

Then there's the river pool in Landco's latest residential-resort development, Playa Calatagan. With a wet pool, cabanas complete with bubblers, a pool bar and kid's activity pool, it rightly complements the myriad leisure options that the development seeks to offer.



**TRIBECA**

**TERRAZAS de Punta Fuego's breathtaking infinity pool**



**PENINSULA de Punta Fuego's infinity pool**

## Closer to urban dwellers

Through its latest brainchild, TRIbeca Private Residences, Landco seeks to transport the same luxury that the residents and guests of its previous developments enjoy.

TRIbeca's version is a multi-activity pool seamlessly incorporating a range of leisure swimming interests. This 1,800-square-meter feature includes a sunken tree court, massage cottages, center islands, floating pads, beach pool, kid's water play and sunken bar.

## Leisure options, features

Aside from the infinity pool, TRIbeca offers myriad leisure options perfect for busy urban sophisticates.

Its three-hectare Central Park offers myriad Active Spaces-fitness circuits, and bicycle and jogging paths as well as spaces to relax and unwind.

Set side by side with these leisure options are technologically advanced features that no urban dweller can do without. It has Wi-Fi-ready zones as well as Internet and cable-ready units for those who want to enjoy the convenience of modern living.

Landco Pacific is a multi-product developer of high-quality residential resorts, leisure farms, residential developments, shopping centers and CBDs and memorial parks. It continues to provide superior value in its developments and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way we live.

# South continues to lure high-end residential developments

From page B2-1

proved mass transportation, Chikiamco said. "We only hope that the national government along with the private sector can answer this need sooner rather than later," he added.

## 'City-fying'

Asked about his view on some sectors' concerns that the south is being "city-fied"—natural habitats and settings that are supposed to be "untouched" but are being encroached upon by man-made developments, Chikiamco quipped:

"To continue to 'city-fy' natural habitats and the suburbs is not sustainable in the long term. Developers should always input in their development initiatives to consider long-term issues for sustainable growth. Purely 'city-fying' areas will not do."

## Mango orchard

The Lindenwood concept would benefit from a rolling terrain, mature trees, a high elevation and quiet surroundings. The site is part of the huge mango orchards of the Madrigals similar to the Ayala-Alabang setting.

Three hundred ninety lots have been opened for sale in its first phase and an opening price of an average of P10,000 per sq m. The average lot size is about 350 sq m.

The lot sizes in Lindenwood were primarily dictated upon by the need to preserve the natural terrain. Making smaller lot cuts would require flattening the terrain instead of preserving its original contour, making the development lose its inherent charm and appeal.

A Lindenwood lot would typically cost about P3 million to P3.5 million. Assuming a house would cost another P3.5 million, the total cost of a house and lot would be P7 million.

# Nationwide computerization will solve property woes, LRA says

COMPUTERIZATION WILL SOLVE all the problems hounding the property industry, said Land Registration Authority's administrator Benedicto B. Ulep during the successful Project Kick-off workshop held recently at Clarkfield, Angeles City.

According to Ulep, it's all systems go for LRA's Land Titling Computerization Project.

He said the three-day team-building event brought together the key participants from the LRA and the Land Registration Systems Inc. (Lares), LRA's partner for the LTCP, to produce a common level of understanding on the framework, methodologies, metrics and resource requirements for project implementation. The workshop participants emerged eager to lead the much-needed shift of the LRA's systems from manual to computerized.

The workshop was spearheaded by LRA project management executive committee chair, Deputy Administrator Edilberto R. Feliciano while the closing remarks were delivered by Ulep.

### Project dev't committees

During the workshop, the different project development committees conducted isolated group discussions to tackle key issues and concerns, which are critical to the success of the project.

These committees are the Registry of Deeds operations committee, which is chaired by Deputy Administrator Ofelia Abueg-Sta. Maria, the central office operations committee, led by Director Artemio Legaspi, the site preparation committee, headed by Director Rosalinda Alonzo, administrative and personnel management committee headed by lawyer Loreto Orense, the IT committee led by Marilyn Comboy, the project development and coordination committee led by Ser John Pastrana, the legal and policy committee, chaired by Director Ronald Ortile and the finance committee led by Dionisio Intalan.

The workshop was effectively organized and managed by the joint project secretariat.

### Discussion topics

The committees covered in their discussions the overall development of a system-integrated information technology solution that will interconnect the LRA Central Office and all the Registries of Deeds (RDs) nationwide and enable on-line transaction processing, standardize and streamline business processes, and secure land titles. The end result will be a welcome and comprehensive modernization of the operations of the LRA and the computerization of its major business processes.

The committees also confronted the issues and problems regarding site preparation. The project includes the rehabilitation of 126 existing Registries and the Central Office as well as the construction of the 3-story Information Management Center and 36 new offices.

The change management group suggested and recommended activities such as personnel training/orientation and information awareness strategies. Mapping issues and requirements were also discussed.

### 5 phases of implementation

The LTCP will be implemented in five phases. Phase 1 will involve system prototyping in the pilot Registries of Deeds of Quezon City, Parañaque City and Cebu City. It also involves the construction of a 3-story Information Management Center.

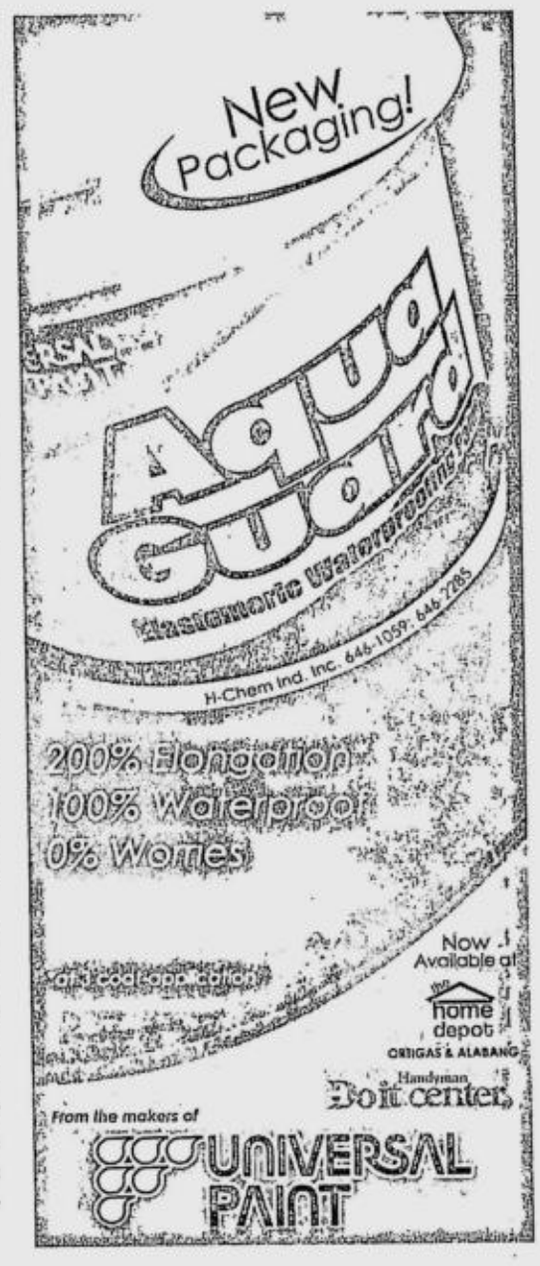
Phase 2 will involve the roll-out of the developed and accepted system to 64 sites and the commissioning of a Central Office Application System.

Phase 3 will involve rolling out the system to 43 RDs while Phase 4 involves the roll-out of the application to the remaining 52 RDs.

Phase 5 will involve the operation and maintenance of the resulting information technology (IT) facilities and the development of a GIS (Geographic Information System) for the NCR RDs.

Implementing the LTCP, in partnership with the LRA, is the Land Registration Systems Inc. Lares entered into the contract to deliver the LTCP under the Build-Own-Operate scheme of the Philippines' Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law. Among others, the contract provides conditions wherein Lares has the exclusive right to provide IT services to the LRA for a period of 10 years, after which the contract may be extended through negotiation and mutual agreement.

Under the agreement, Lares is tasked with the design, development and construction of an IT structure customized to meet the requirements of LRA. It is also held responsible for the implementation, maintenance and upgrading of this entire IT structure for the duration of the concession. The concession period shall begin after the issuance of the Certificate of Acceptance of IT Facility for each phase.



A COLLECTION of beautifully designed bungalow residences at Portello in Batangas.

# Creating world-class developments across RP

VISTA LAND & LIFESCAPES INC. IS the country's largest homebuilder offering the broadest spectrum of homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country. It boasts a strong track record of over 30 years of building world-class developments.

One of the four subsidiaries of Vista Land is Communities Philippines, the expert in converting the countryside into a landscape of sought-after enclaves and is the first Manila-based developer to expand operations into key cities and towns across the country.

### Residential communities

Communities Philippines builds residential communities outside of Mega Manila with its current developments in 13 cities and towns from northern Luzon to southern Mindanao. It indeed has the widest geographic coverage among all local home developers.

A BEAUTIFUL porch, wide windows, and clapboards completes this charming American South-inspired home at Savannah in Iloilo.

In all of Communities Philippines' projects, the technologies, designs and development philosophies of Brittany Corp., CrownAsia and Camella Homes & Communities are incorporated to create prime projects throughout the country's farthest regions at par with the world's best.

### 21 themed developments

It currently has 21 master-planned, themed developments across the country.

Among these are Wedgewood in Pangasinan; Sorrento and Andalusia in Pampanga; Provence in Bulacan; Portello and Plantacion in Batangas; Savannah in Iloilo; Riverdale, Pasadena, Azienda, Lombardi and Vittoria in Cebu City; La Pradera in Leyte; Gran Europa in Cagayan de Oro which features different enclaves—La Mirande, Frontiera, Montaña Vista and Portico; and Positano, Solariega and Toscana in Davao.

Each community boasts recreational amenities and facilities surrounded by lush landscaping, round the clock security and carefully laid-out drainage system to prevent flooding. A wide selection of model homes with architecture inspired by the world's finest destinations is also available.

The four subsidiaries of Vista Land—Communities Philippines, Brittany, CrownAsia and Camella—are all recognized leaders in their specific segments in the real estate market.

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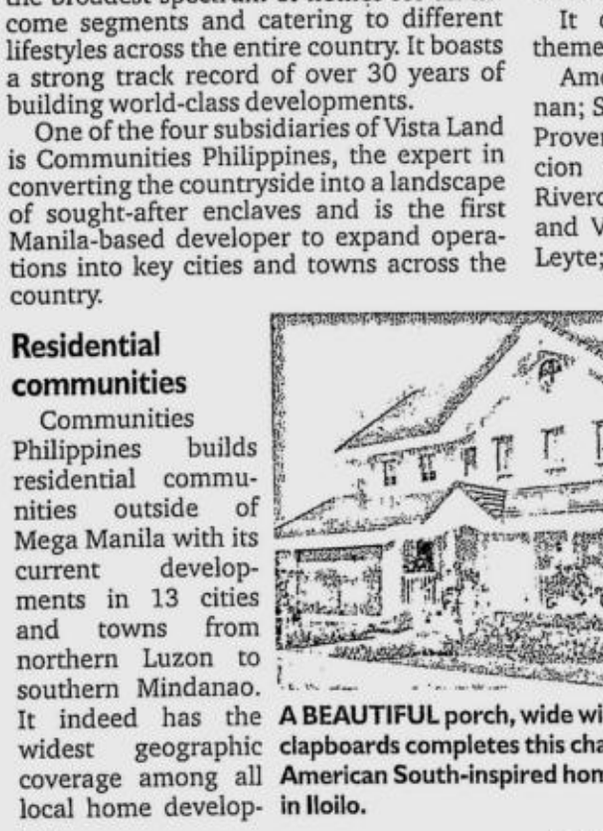

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# Brittany's KL Mosaic ushers artful living

AT THE HEART OF MAKATI'S central business district, Brittany Corp., a proud member of the country's largest home builder Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. introduces a second development grounded on an unprecedented alliance of art and design. In partnership with the Kalaw-Ledesma family, Brittany redefines condominium living by bringing into fruition a property that can truly be called a work of art.

KL Mosaic combines innovative property development with the illustrious tradition of art patronage. It's where one can truly be at home with art and inspiration.

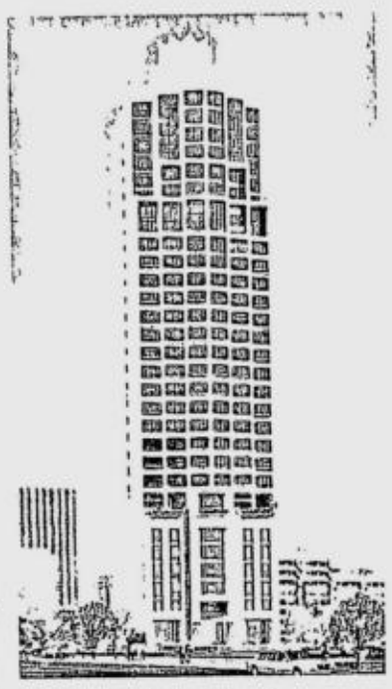
VISTA Land, through its subsidiary Brittany Corp., forges a partnership with the Kalaw-Ledesma family to pioneer the concept of art-chitecture for KL Mosaic. From left are Lourdes Ledesma, Vista Land director and head of corporate planning Paolo Villar, Vista Land president and CEO, Ada Ledesma-Mabilangan and Mark Villar.

### Shared vision

"It is an honor for Brittany to call the Kalaw-Ledesma family a partner in this endeavor. At KL Mosaic, residents can take advantage of the shared vision of two established creative thinkers—both drawing from unparalleled expertise in the field of art and property development," declares Vista Land president and CEO Jing Serrano.

KL Mosaic continues the success of the first Mosaic property which received an overwhelming response from the market. It is expected to receive a similar, if not stronger, reception.

"The philosophy of Mosaic focuses on bringing together different materials, textures and ideas to create a work of art. It believes in allowing you to live in places that encourage and inspire you to appreciate art every day. The alliance with the Kalaw-Ledesma family for KL Mosaic strengthens Brittany's vision for the property which is to be a leading purveyor of art-chitecture."



INSPIRING art-chitecture evident on the glass panels on the podium design of KL Mosaic.

### Property's unique concept

Located on Gamboa Street, KL Mosaic is a 32-story, hexagonal-shaped structure designed by WV Coscolluela and Associates. The building exteriors are embellished with glass panels on the podium design, immediately calling attention to the property's unique concept.

Affording a view of the Legaspi Park, it offers 1-, 2-, 3-bedroom and loft units ranging from P3.7 million to P26 million. Conscious of the importance of both private and public spaces, the layout guarantees ample air circulation within the entire structure. Offered units begin at floor areas with 38 square meters.

### RP's first designer condo

Among its most distinctive features, however, is the art space designed to accommodate the Kalaw-Ledesma art collection. KL Mosaic will be the first designer condominium in the country with a gallery, dubbed as The Biggest Little Room—providing unprecedented access to a rich collection that captures the sprit of the Philippines' history of art and culture as well as other valuable collections from Kalaw-Ledesma family's travels in different parts of the globe.

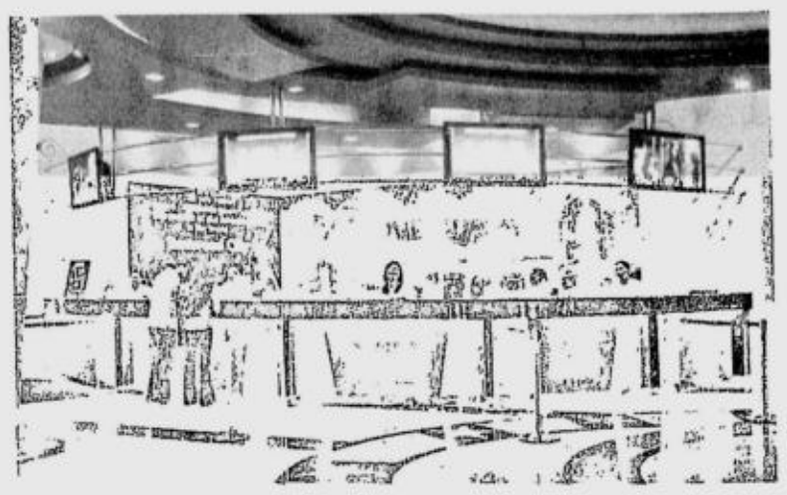
The gallery will carry not only the Kalaw-Ledesma collection but will feature the works of up-and-coming artists as well—continuing a valued tradition of preserving the country's artistic treasures for future generations.

### New era

"Brittany's partnership with the Kalaw-Ledesma family to create KL Mosaic ushers in a new era in fashioning urban lifescapes—one that celebrates the richness of life every single day," Serrano concluded.

Brittany is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes CrossWinds, Portofino, Georgia Club, The Islands, Mosaic and KL Mosaic at Greenbelt and Avant at The Fort. With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 837-3851 or 850-2868.



MAKE the highly rated Eastwood Cinemas your very own theater by investing in a unit at Eastwood LeGrand.

# Palm District to rise in Eastwood City

EXPANSION IS THE HALLMARK of a business basking in hard-earned success. The same can be said of properties. Eastwood City is a fine example of such a property. Its growth is the consequence of a carefully planned and well-executed live-work-play concept.

Just recently, Eastwood announced its latest extension: the Palm District. This area is located on the southern side of the development. It takes its name from the palm trees that line its avenues, which give notes of similarly festooned trendy districts in other parts of the world.

### Tower to have, behold

The Palm District is anchored by Eastwood LeGrand, Eastwood City's newest tower. Eastwood LeGrand offers city glitterati an enviable residence in this part of the city.

Its main highlight is its unrivaled glamor. Rising 38-stories high, its overall image has been fashioned from the tradition of Art Deco and its iconic examples, the Chrysler and Empire State buildings. With eye-catching decorative moldings, striking grill and stonework and a magnificent entrance lobby-cum-lounge facing the palm-fringed entrance, Eastwood LeGrand is Manhattan by way of Miami.

Equally important to point out is the building's and the district's location. With unimpeded easterly views of the Sierra Madre mountains, cooling breeze from Laguna de Bay and direct access to the city's important business districts (Ortigas and Makati), including one new road that links to C-5, Eastwood LeGrand's location definitely makes strategic sense.

### Treasures

Eastwood LeGrand's individual residences are treasures in their own right. Through their wide, glass-paned windows, each of the one-bedroom, two-bedroom and executive studio units commands spectacular views of Eastwood City and the rest of Manila. All living, sleeping and dining areas are fitted with modern wooden laminate while the kitchens and baths are beautifully tiled in ceramic and fitted with storage systems.

For residents who want a choice between active and rest during their playtime, there is a lap pool, a jet spa and a fitness station in the exclusive leisure area located on the tower's seventh floor.

The quick pace in which Eastwood LeGrand units were sold show that many young, urban citizens have subscribed to the Eastwood philosophy of working hard and playing hard, but at the same time making a statement.

Public interest has been so strong that Megaworld has decided to launch soon a second residential tower in the Palm District to meet the very high demand. For those who see the right investment opportunity when they see one, please call 421-4243 or 421-4247 or check out www.megaworldcorp.com.

# Cypress Towers rises in Taguig

FROM A THRIVING FISHING COMMUNITY along the shores of Laguna de Bay, Taguig City is now an important residential and industrial suburb of Metro Manila. The construction of the C-5 highway and the acquisition of the Fort Bonifacio development area have paved the way for the cityhood of the municipality, which was declared on Dec. 8, 2004.

Taguig is home to Fort Bonifacio, a 2,578-hectare property acquired by the US government during the American Colonial Period, formerly known as Fort McKinley. The property was eventually turned over to the Philippine government to become the permanent headquarters of the Philippine Army in 1957. It was then renamed Fort Bonifacio on May 14, 1949 after revolutionary hero Andres Bonifacio.

In 1992, Fort Bonifacio was turned over to the Bases Conversion Development Authority. In 1995, Bonifacio Land Corp. won the bidding to become BCDA's partner in the development of a major part of the property. In 2003, the area was envisioned to be a world-class business and commercial hub and was to implement an ambitious masterplan for the whole area they subsequently called Bonifacio Global City.

### Upscale residential address

BGC continues to witness various developments arising from its roads, which has since been transformed into an upscale residential address. Office buildings also jut out on various portions to create an emerging skyline of modernized structures. Institutions have moved offices in this area, among them International School and St. Luke's Medical Center. Dining and leisure establishments have also since opened at Bonifacio High Street to lure the fun-loving crowds.

Way before all these happened though, one builder/developer has already recognized the potential of Taguig City. DMCI Homes first worked in Taguig in 1994, for a government housing project called Diego Silang, which the company constructed.

Engineer Alfredo R. Austria, DMCI Homes managing director, related their experience: "C-5 back then was just newly opened, so we realized that it's a very good location, being accessible to major thoroughfares and basically all parts of Metro Manila. During that time, land values were more reasonable, so we didn't hesitate to buy properties."

### Construction boom

It was also the period of the construction boom in the Philippines, so DMCI decided to put their construction facilities, warehouses, concrete batching plants in Taguig, and from there delivered all these materials to their various construction projects all over Metro Manila.

Fast forward to the new millennium and Taguig has since embraced progress. DMCI Homes has also taken advantage of its properties within the city, building various projects including Cypress Towers, which has the distinct advantage of being located on C-5 road.

Around that time, major developers were also showing interest in the booming growth of Taguig. "Right now is the best time to develop it. Taguig is one of the most dynamic places in Metro Manila today, with so many buildings going up, offices relocating there, schools, and of course people working there who need places to stay. The problem is that many condos inside BGC are more of luxury-type units, one tower developments that feature cramp unit spaces and some small amenities," Austria said.

CYPRESS Towers is another prime community development of real estate developer DMCI Homes.

### More affordable

Cypress Towers stands out among these developments as the value for money alternative for homebuyers wanting to locate near BGC. "We have bigger units, bigger amenities areas, a lot of open spaces to rejuvenate our tired residents. It's practically a resort community in the middle of the city, which is 20 to 30 percent more affordable than the industry standard price," Austria said.

Cypress Towers' sales office is located on C5 adjacent to Diego Silang Road. It currently houses two of Cypress Tower's furnished model units, the 2BR standard unit and the Tandem unit.

CROWNASIA'S FORTEZZA

# Attainable grand, countryside homes

MAJOR PARTS OF THE METROPOLIS ARE now depleted of trees which provide fresh air among the heavy vehicular pollution and have become a crowded concrete jungle. Making thousands of Filipinos' dreams to possess their very own home in an area ideal for raising their family a reality has been CrownAsia's aspiration behind each of its developments across Mega Manila.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., CrownAsia is the country's pioneer developer of masterplanned, themed enclaves with befitting style while remaining within the reach of Filipino families. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

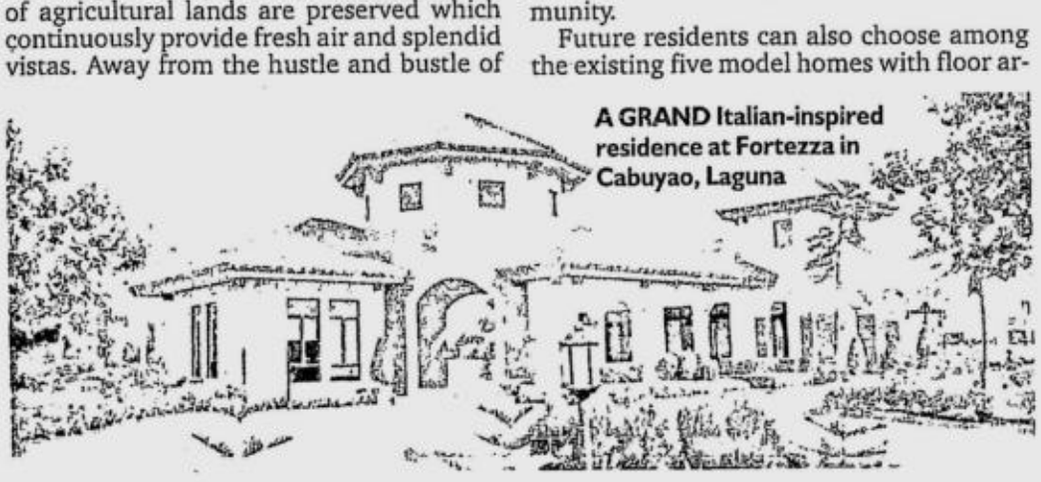
The Laguna countryside now boasts a booming economy while generous portions of agricultural lands are preserved which continuously provide fresh air and splendid vistas. Away from the hustle and bustle of the metro, CrownAsia has chosen the heart of Cabuyao, Laguna to be the home of its full-blown residential community, Fortezza.

### Italian-inspired homes

The enclave offers its latest quaint Italian-inspired homes: Daniella and Calista, with floor areas of 81 and 64 square meters, respectively. The intricate design of these models maximized precious space to produce three bedrooms, a family area, balcony and provisions for a carport.

Now, residing in the grand 15-hectare community of Fortezza turns into a more attainable goal with a monthly amortization package of as low as P10,039 now available, bringing you closer to your dream of owning a home and lot in a secure, serene and idyllic countryside community.

Future residents can also choose among the existing five model homes with floor areas beginning at 63 to 141 sq m on lots ranging from 110 to 132 sq m. Phase 1 spans over seven hectares and has 288 lots to allow families to tailor-fit their Italian-inspired residence to address specific living requirements. Phase 2 extends seven hectares with more than 350 home and lot packages available.



A GRAND Italian-inspired residence at Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna

### First-class amenities, facilities

It boasts first-class amenities and facilities such as a clubhouse, and basketball and tennis courts. Children can frolic in the playpark or around the grounds of Fortezza with parents having the peace of mind about their welfare with the exclusive community's round-the-clock security. Landscaped parks, picnic and promenade areas, and wide pathways are found around the enclave for leisurely walks while enjoying a view of Mt. Makiling. Tagaytay and the beaches of Batangas are also nearby.

Children can get the best education from top institutions nearby like the Brent, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica and De La Salle University. A number of commercial complexes are also found in Laguna like SM Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Walter Mart, Rustan's and Paseo de Sta. Rosa. With the strategic location of Fortezza just right off the Cabuyao exit the business and commercial districts in the metropolis can easily be reached, while one can get to and from Alabang in 15 minutes. For interested parties, call 871-3882 and 873-8412, or log on to www.crownasia.com.ph.

# *Potain crane continues to lead the pack*

THE PURCHASE OF CRANES is a major investment decision for business—a decision that demands the knowledgeable use of valuable resources to help secure the best overall results. As the world's leading manufacturer of tower cranes, Potain designs its products for long-term use and optimum performance. Built with top-quality materials and craftsmanship, a genuine Potain Crane Tower is known for its resale value, a guaranteed mark of quality.

Expanding from its French origins to provide the best products, services and support for its fast-growing consumer base, Potain established its presence here in Asia in early 1997 by putting up its regional headquarters in Singapore to support businesses in India, Japan, Korea, China, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

### Innovations

The company's history is peppered with innovations ever since its 1928 founding by Frenchman Faustin Potain. From its humble beginnings as a producer of small construction equipment, Potain now boasts over 110,000 cranes sold and installed around the world, and successfully fulfilling its reputation for quality, dependability and excellent service.

With patented innovations and technologies that lead and change the industry, its many groundbreaking features include Top Tracing anticollision, Panel Mast design to reduce transport costs and a choice of mast configurations to optimize performance.

Potain prides itself in its commitment and support to customers. Riding out the tough times through the economic crisis during the late '90s, the company has been in operation in the country for 10 years and looks forward to adding even more years.

Its parent company, Manitowoc, is the foremost international producer of high-quality lattice-boom crawler cranes. With the acquisition of Potain and Grove in recent years, it now boasts three of the world's premium brands in lifting equipment: Manitowoc crawler cranes, Potain tower cranes and Grove mobile hydraulic cranes.

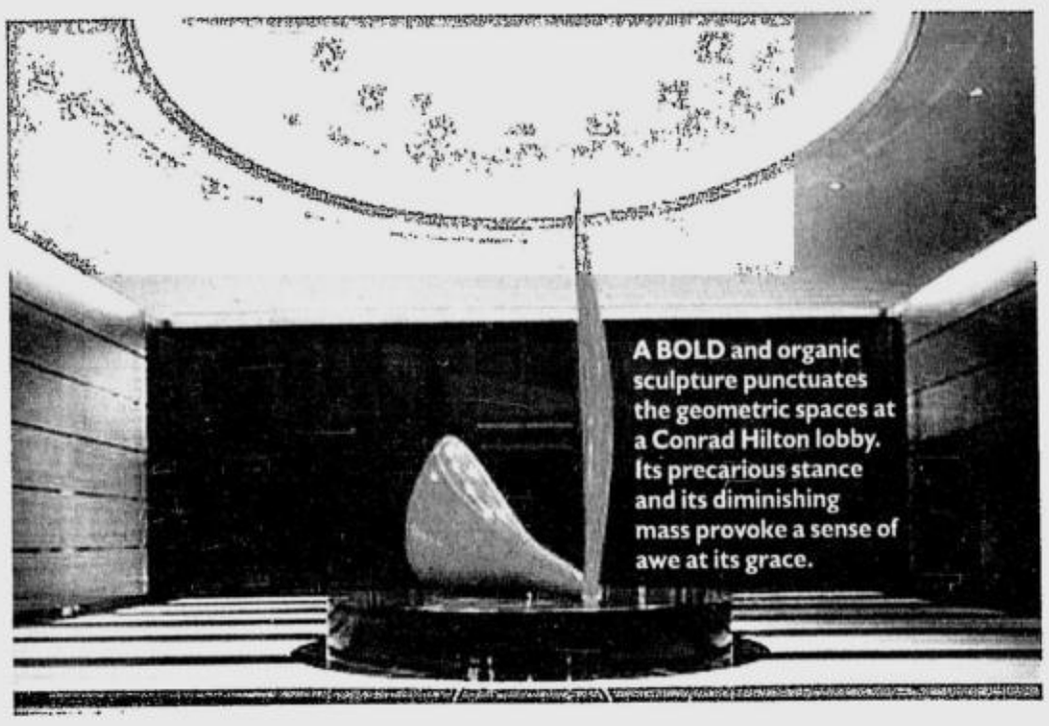
MANITOWOC Crane Group President Dennis Warren (left) and GM Raul Fernandez.

### 60 models

Producing more than 60 models from tower crane factories located in Europe and Asia, the Potain brand offers the market state-of-art products manufactured by a team of skilled and dedicated professionals. With design features to meet the requirement of different regions, Potain stands by its products wherever they're used and customers can expect maximum performance and safety from their investment.

The purchase of an original Potain crane also affords customer access to the Manitowoc CraneCARE, a comprehensive and advance worldwide service program that provides unprecedented access to the best support in the crane business.

# Creating that sense of arrival



A BOLD and organic sculpture punctuates the geometric spaces at a Conrad Hilton lobby. Its precarious stance and its diminishing mass provoke a sense of awe at its grace.

AT THE ART Tower in Mito, Japan, rhythmic lighting mimic a march to its culmination: a pipe organ at the end of this entrance hallway.

REACHING ONE'S DESTINATION always elicits an emotion—often a sigh of relief in finally arriving, or a squeal of delight over ultimately having gotten there. The journey, they say, is as important as the destination, and it is this visual tandem of approach and arrival that gives us initial impressions on the importance of a space.

In design, an approach is like any movie with a great plot that culminates at a high point. It is the deliberate and dramatic ascent into a "wow" moment. This dramatic ascent could be equivalent to a few steps, or arduous like a long circuitous path.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

*Isabel Berenguer Asuncion*

The end-all in this is a visual goal that signifies the termination of the approach and announces the arrival. In my design work, I always look to the approach as the introduction to any project, and the arrival as the take-off point of what any other part of the space will look like.

## Approaches and arrivals

The traditional hotels in particular, know this quite well and in very conventional terms: a sweeping driveway with a three-lane porte-cochere defines the approach. A large waiting area and double-leaf swing doors that open into a huge lobby, often with an adorned pedestal center table, define the arrival.

Approaches and arrivals need not be this obvious nor conventional. The Metrobank Plaza on Ayala Avenue dramatizes arrival by the unfolding of space during an ascent. From street level, a discreet foyer connects to the main lobby floor via a long escalator. As one slowly ascends, the main lobby floor of the building reveals itself: a large, spacious sunlit area dramatized by streams of light that cut through the architectural baffles and paint patterns of light into the space.

I thought it was very dramatic, especially as it felt that the space was coming forward and unfolding rather than myself approaching. The China Palace restaurant in the Mall of Asia has one traipsing over a little curved bridgeway into its main foyer and dining hall.

## The same stage show

Some homes strive to create the same stage show: walkways with various design elements manage the approach to a front porch and into the main door. For others, the approach is no long path and could instead present itself like a jump-start with an unexpected dead end: the show could start with a pair of tall, large and seemingly foreboding doors that connote concealment and privacy.

The mere scale emphasizing rejection and eventually acceptance as one enters and breaches the psychological barrier imposed by the once-sinister doors. In other situations, rhythmic elements like a walkway pattern or ceremonial lighting add an invisible beat to the ritual of approaching, and punctuate it with a termination piece that is usually more impressive when it is unlike anything expected.

That sense of arrival—creating an impression that one has reached some special place—leaves an imprint on one's awareness. It determines whether one will return or not. Its intense impact often defines the rest of a space and predetermines the whole spatial experience. With consistency, the rest of a space could be as impressive and lasting as the initial impressions of the arrival.

FUNKY cars, hanging like a child's mobile, greet the guests coming into the lobby of a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum.

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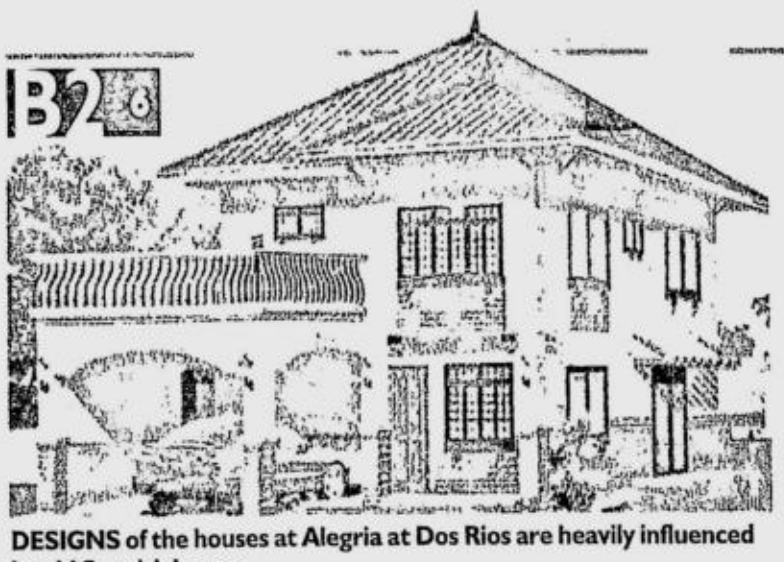
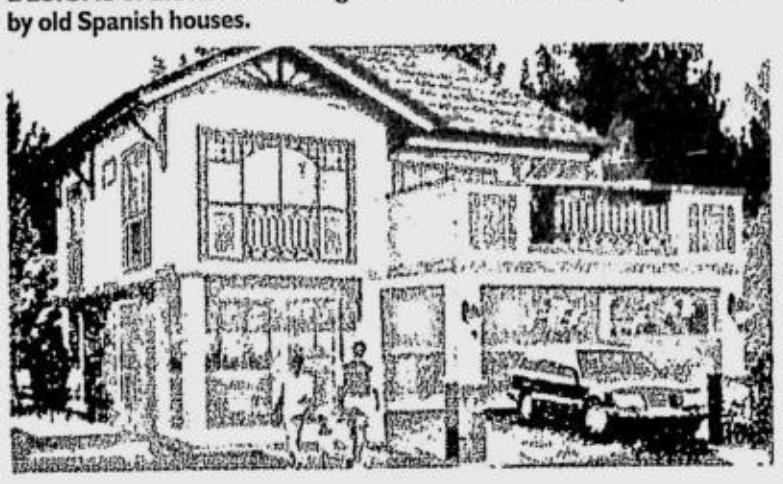
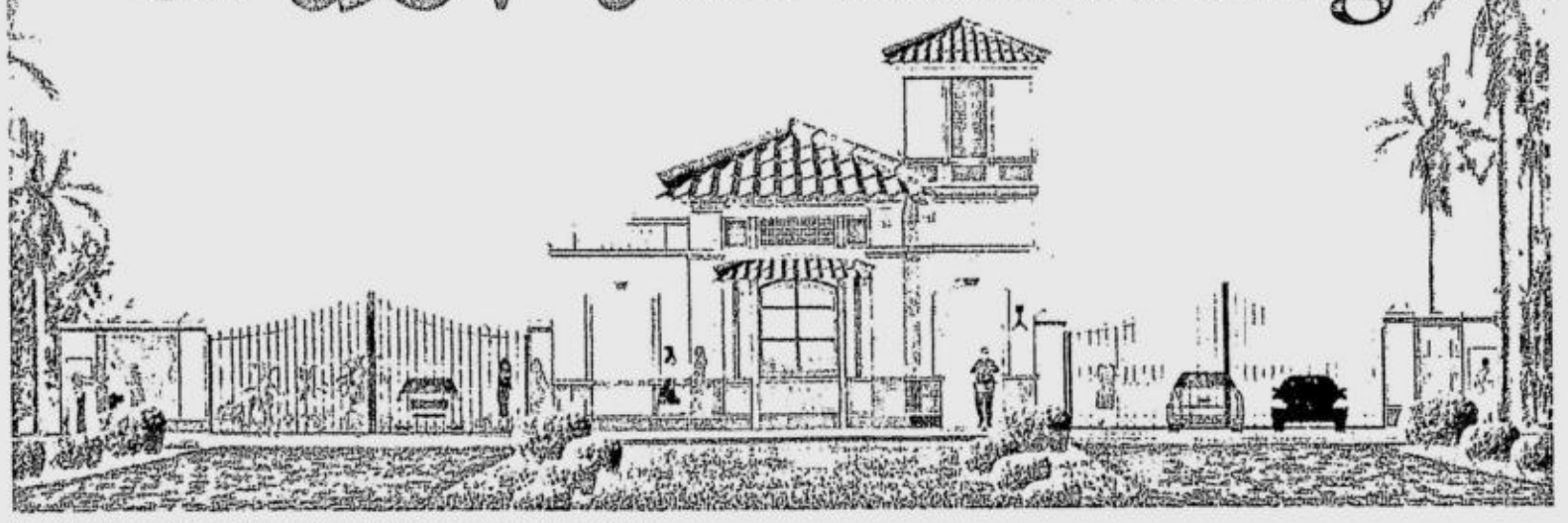
# Moldex: Riding the wave of dev't in Canlubang



DESIGNS of the houses at Alegria at Dos Rios are heavily influenced by old Spanish houses.





ARTIST'S rendition of the Alegria at Dos Rios entrance gate

By Charles E. Buban

THE OLD SUGAR ESTATES of the Yulo family in Canlubang, Laguna is being touted to be the next Makati City of the south.

Why? Because aside from the several big industrial firms that have located, property giant Ayala Land is also coming in, partnering with the owner, the Yulo family, to transform a significant portion of the Canlubang Sugar Estate into a 21st century mixed-use community.

This development caught the attention of other residential developers considering their future residents would welcome the presence of some of the country's big schools—De La Salle Canlubang, Xavier School, San Sebastian, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica's College—as well as others that are also planning to be set up including the University of Santo Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University, University of Asia and the Pacific.

## Attracted others

"This plan to make Canlubang a regional industrial, commercial and educational center has attracted other property developers to talk to the family about entering into a joint venture. Fortunately for us, the family saw the merits of our project," said Melanie Chua Shrestha, assistant vice president of Moldex Realty Marketing.

Established in 1996, Moldex Realty Marketing is an exclusive marketer of all horizontal and vertical projects of Moldex Realty Inc. (which handles horizontal project expansion of Moldex Group) and Moldex Land Inc. (which focuses on high rise and high-end projects).

Shrestha said that with the joint venture, Moldex Realty Marketing will develop a 32 hectare residential community beside Ayala's planned residential developments.

"Called Alegria at Dos Rios, it will ride the wave of developments happening on this piece of prime real estate. A total of 1,049 lots of at least 132 sq m in area will be offered," Shrestha said.

To pay homage to the place's history as well as its owners, Alegria at Dos Rios will be patterned after the historic towns of Vigan in Ilocos Sur and Ciudad Fernandina in Quezon province.

## Spanish Tropical

"The project has adopted the Spanish Tropical ambience that combines the classic romantic touch of a bygone era combined with all the modern amenities for comfort and convenience," described Luz Camacho, Moldex Realty Marketing SVP for marketing.

The houses will use earth colors, tiled roofs and bricks as well as windows that are patterned after the capiz windows popular during the Spanish times.

Camacho said Moldex Realty Marketing will initially offer three designs for its two-story, three-bedroom units, namely the 146.7-sq-m (total floor area) Preciosa, 132.4-sq-m Hermosa and 136.8-sq-m Sonrisa.

## New urbanism

Moldex Realty Marketing AVP and head horizontal sales operations Alzon Gotiangco said the Alegria at Dos Rios will embrace the new urbanism concept where homes will be close together to foster neighborly interactions.

"As such, we have designed this project so that each home will be a few minutes walk or bike away from the community center (the clubhouse or a garden) while the streets are relatively narrow, tree-lined and free of unsightly electrical posts," he said.

Gotiangco said that even the whole development is near everything—schools and universities, premier golf courses and commercial centers.

"Indeed, Alegria at Dos Rios has positioned itself to be a prime residential haven that by the time all the infrastructures are completed—including the proposed north-south road that will connect Canlubang to Cabuyao, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Mamplasan, our future residents will no longer have to drive long to get to their intended destination," he said.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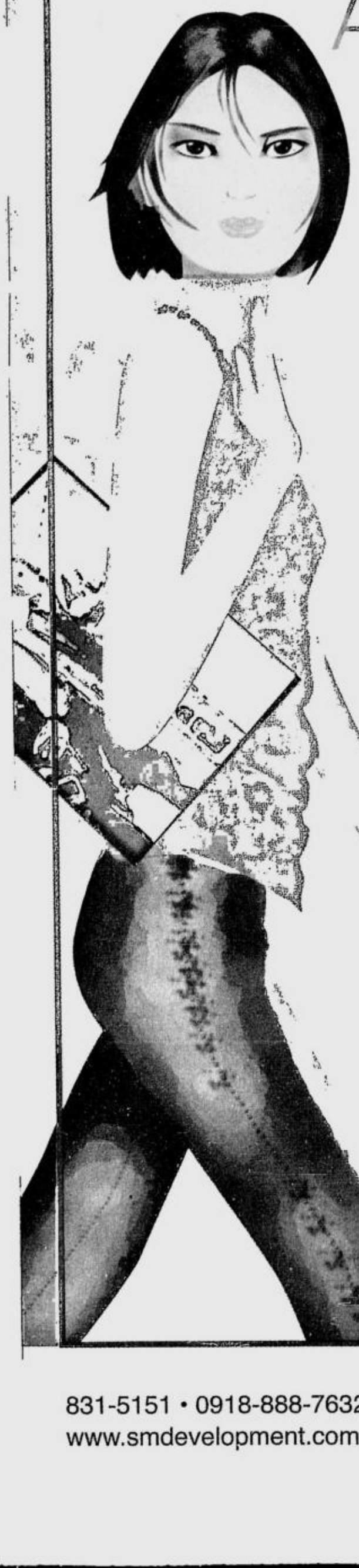

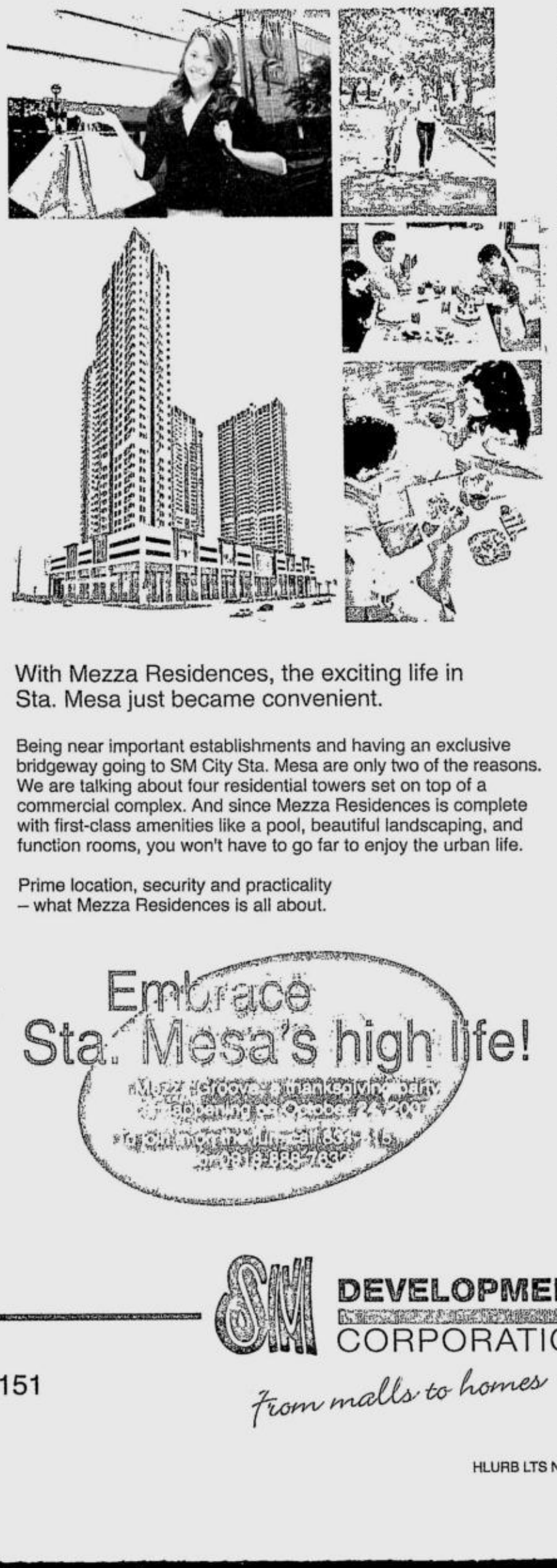

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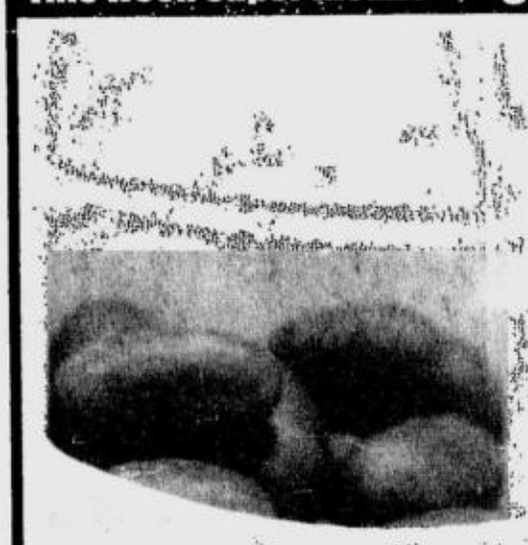

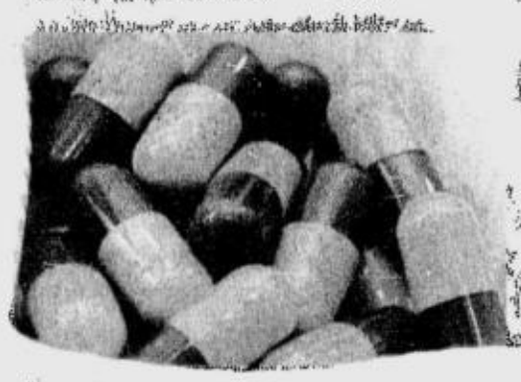

# Pick your addiction

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by Juana Manahan

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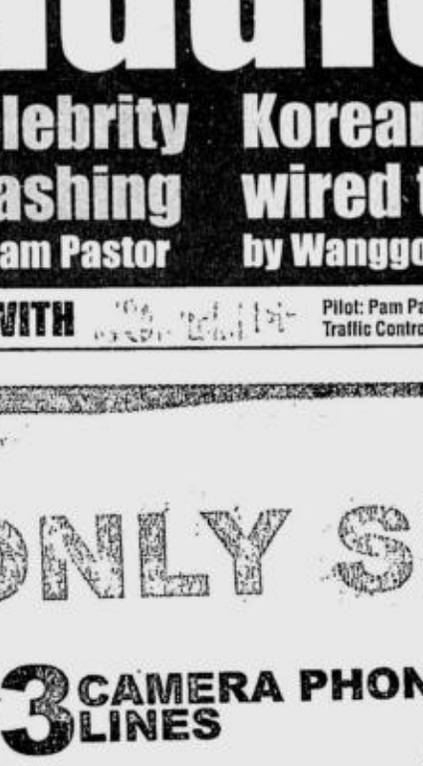


**Nokia 2626**
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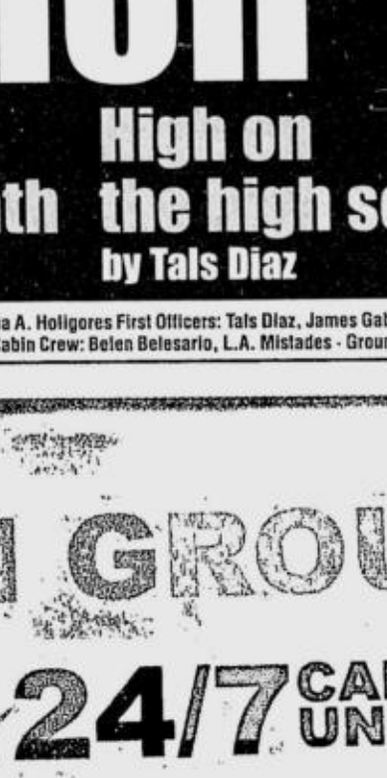
- FM Radio
- GPRS, MMS, JAVA, WAP




**Motorola W218**
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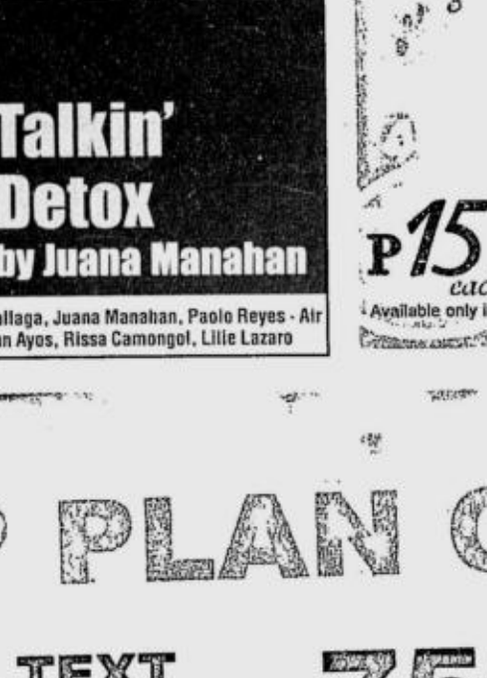
- Calendar with date-book




**Samsung X510**
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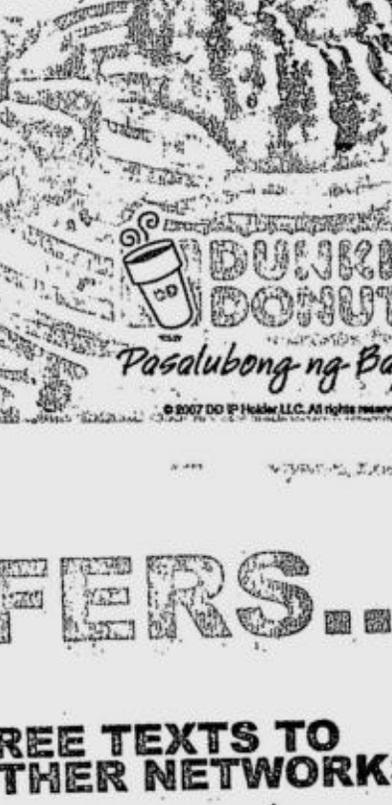
- Triband, Infrared
- GPRS, WAP

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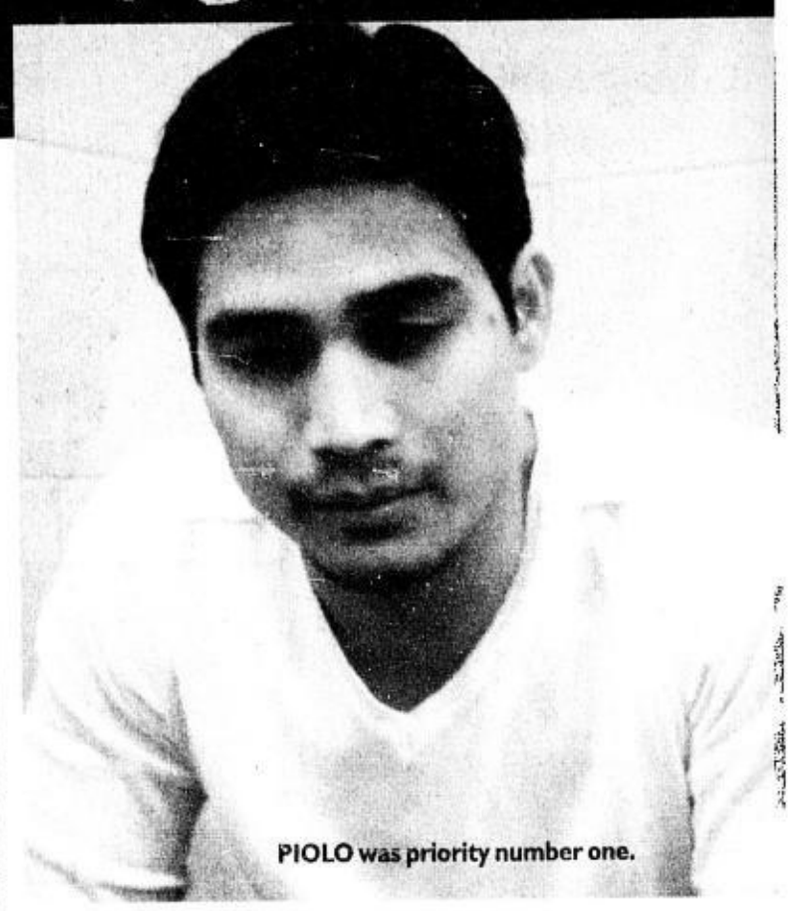
What do you do when your 'balikbayan' aunt is hooked on celebrities? You learn the art of stalking



PIOLO was priority number one.

# Idol worship

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Giff Ricarte

I KNEW MY AUNT AS A CABLE baby. When she was still based in Manila, she never watched local television. And whenever I would find myself in the US, we would burn the phone lines trading Hollywood gossip.

She was into Jennifer and Julia, not Jolina and Judy Ann.

So imagine my surprise, when, after telling me that she was coming home for a four-week visit, she sent an e-mail saying that one thing she wanted to do during her trip was to have her photo taken with Piolo Pascual.

## Chasing Piolo

Yes, after five years of being based in Chicago and not going home to Manila, her big priority was Piolo Pascual.

She wrote, "*Ganito pala pag nasa ibang bansa ka*—you learn to appreciate our movies, our music, our stars, our singers. I've never watched local soaps before I left, *ngayon* enjoy *akong manood* if ever I have the chance, through The Filipino Channel & DVDs."

And because she has showered me with love and generosity all my life (and has willingly played the part of Ebay queen for me countless times), I knew I had to do everything to make it happen.

During the next few weeks, my aunt and I kept exchanging e-mails. She never failed to remind me about her "date with Piolo." She only had 24 days in Manila and she was worried it wouldn't happen.

## Celebrity stalking

Thanks to a good friend and some kind people from ABS-CBN, Tita Tess and I found ourselves watching ASAP live one Sunday morning. And because her daughters wanted nothing to do with our plans of celebrity stalking, I dragged two other friends to go with us.

We spent a couple of hours watching people sing and dance. Aiza Seguerra performed with Yeng Constantino. The entire cast of Lastikman filled the stage. KC Concepcion was there to promote her Paris TV special. After John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo were launched as shampoo endorsers, we set up camp outside Piolo's dressing room, armed with two disposable cameras, three digital cameras and three lomo cameras.

It was an excellent spot—because all the ASAP performers and hosts walked past us on their way to the studio and to their dressing rooms.

In a span of an hour, my aunt managed to have her photo taken with over 20 celebrities—including some whose names she didn't know. She was also able to ask Piolo to sign CDs for her and her friend and to tell him what a big fan she was.

She left Manila with an album full of her photos with the talents of ABS-CBN.

## Bridging the gap

She wrote to me just days after returning to Chicago. "Thank you for making my short visit a wonderful and unforgettable one. I was happy to bond with you & the rest of the family. Thank you for the wonderful ASAP experience. It completed my visit." She said she especially enjoyed meeting Piolo—that it was dream-like and that she felt like someone should pinch her.

The whole experience was both fun and funny but it also made me realize the power of celebrity.

Like my aunt, people who are far from home have a tendency to latch on to anything remotely Filipino in their desire to stay connected to the Philippines. Thanks to the Internet and television, our local celebrities have become a link of sorts, bridging the gap between countries and continents for the lonely.

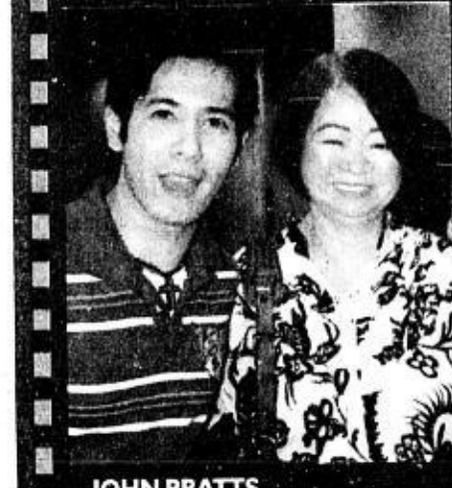
I asked Piolo and Nikki Gil how they felt about that.

Piolo said, "It's a privilege, it's an honor." He added that he really grabs the chance to make a difference in people's lives—especially when he sees their hunger to connect.

Nikki Gil added, "It's a big responsibility but it's a fun job. Despite everything that's happening in the country, we still try to put on a good show to make our *kapamilya* happy."

Hanging out outside dressing rooms and chasing celebrities isn't normally how I like to spend my Sundays. Celebrities are a drug—and my ASAP experience was an overdose. Strangely though, I don't feel like I need an intervention.

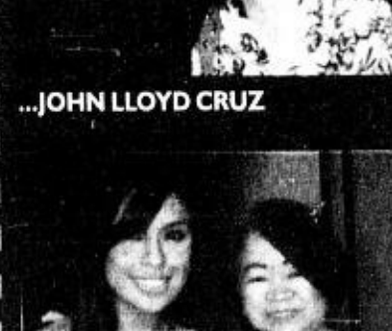
All I have to do is think of Tita Tess and how happy she was that Sunday. Screw rehab, everybody needs to be a fan sometimes.



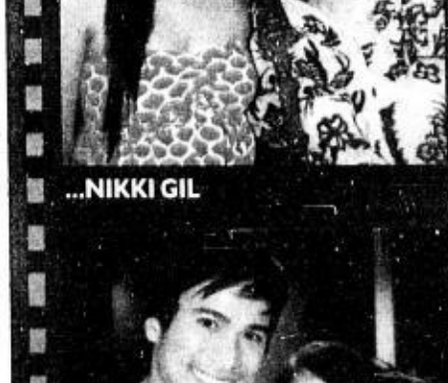
TITA Tess with Luis Manzano...

...ANNE CURTIS

...JOHN PRATTS



...IYA VILLANIA



...JOHN LLOYD CRUZ



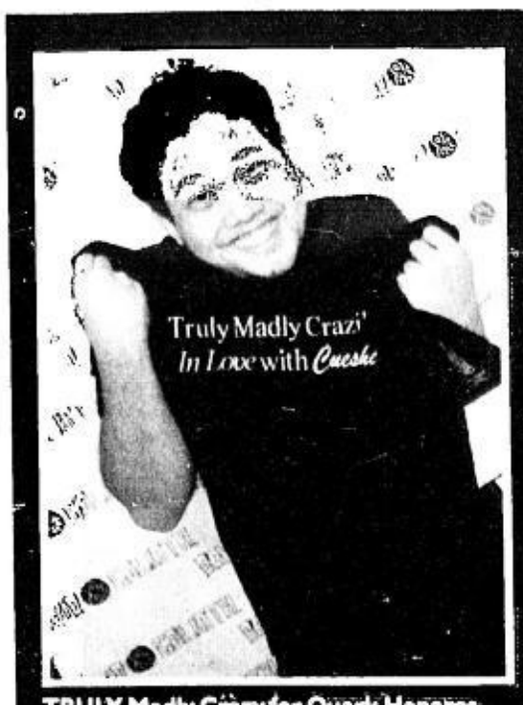
...NIKKI GIL



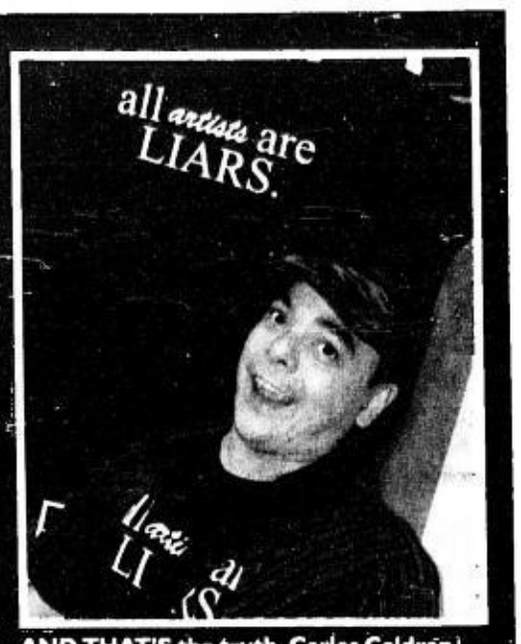
...SAM MILBY




HISTORIC LANDMARK. Outside the Big Brother House




TRULY Madly Crazy for Quark Henares




AND THAT'S the truth, Carlos Celdran

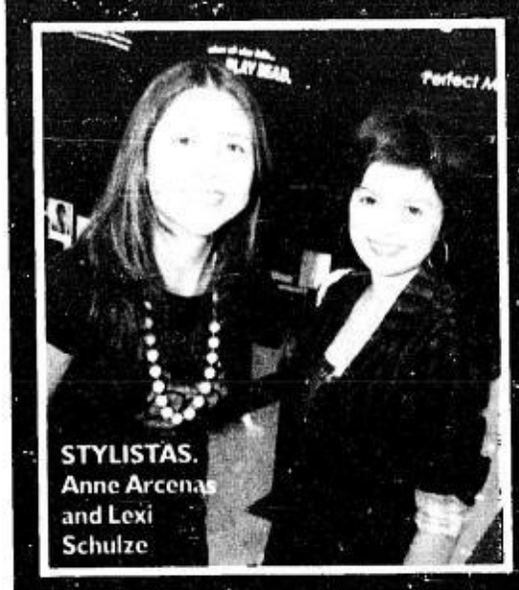
# PEEPS Shirt talks

**Ulterior Motive:** *Speak Your Mind exhibit*
**Date of release:** *Sept. 19*
**Crime Scene:** *Archeology, Rockwell*
**Party Perpetrator:** *David & Goliath*

**International cult clothing line David & Goliath has gained serious attention for using the iconic crewneck as a wearable pop culture phenomenon. They recently launched the Speak Your Mind series, a collection of customized tees for the country's most celebrated personalities that bear their personal quips and quotes.**

WITH FEELINGS. Gang Badoy

T FOR TWO? Jon Syjuco and Tim Tayag



STYLISTAS. Anne Arcenas and Lexi Schulze

TOP OF THE CHARTICLE. Paolo Reyes and Robin Sarmiento

PEBBLES AND SEA PRINCESS. Pebbles Syjuco and Tessa Valdes

EI, MON! Mark Abaya and Monica Llamas

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SUPER SELECTS

# Vanity Skills

IF BEAUTY FOR DUMMIES IS your Bible then two products are in the market to make sure you get your beauty fix without getting an overdose.

### Spa Shoot Up

### Nuskin Galvanic Spa II

With a contraption that can look like a higher form remote control, the Galvanic Spa II promises a skin, hair and body boost with a simple wax on wax off motion. With a combination of the "electricity" that comes off your palm at the base of the spa tool mixing with the removable head that touches the Nuskin beauty gel of choice (depending on the treatment) as soon as it touches some skin. For the face you get to double up on your spa-like hit. The first gel (pre-treatment) is used to detoxify and remove the impurities in your skin, apply it first before you switch on the space-age looking contraption. Make sure the palm of your hand is a bit damp and that it is touching the base of the Galvanic Spa II before you start. With a click of a button you slide it over your face and you can actually feel a slight current, stronger in areas which are more sensitive and barely discernible in others. After a couple of minutes of this facial massage you wipe the stuff off with a warm wet towel and apply the treatment gel next. The treatment gel helps facilitate the skin's recovery from stress and even has magnesium which promotes cellular energy. Sounds too high tech? Not at all for as long as you have a steady hand and around 10 minutes in your day you can get a full on skin rejuvenation that makes people think you had a good night's sleep even if you were up all night. For total beauty addicts, you can remove the conductor head of the Galvanic Spa II and replace it with conductor heads for the hair (using another treatment called Nutriol) and for the body beautiful, another conductor head combined Nuskin Body Shaping gel to help the appearance of cellulite. (Admit it, cottage cheese is not even appetizing to look at when it's on your plate, what more on your thighs!) Get a three in one beauty shoot up that won't have you selling the family valuables to get gorgeous. For more information go to www.nuskin.com.ph or call 689-0300.

### Withdrawal Slim-toms

### Elancyl Lipo-Reducing Concentrate

Even the skinniest of people get it, and nothing is more habit forming than wanting smooth skin especially with midriff baby tees and short shorts (and shorter) skirts! Everyone laughs about cellulite but no one wants to openly admit they actually have it. So, before fibbing on the appearance of your skin Galenic's Elancyl has a quick fix for you. This green, fruity smelling gel ( don't worry it's a good fruit smell to you Durian haters) works 24 hours on your skin even with just one morning application, so, if your brain shuts off after the sun goes down, nothing to worry about the gel keeps on working it's butt (on your butt) off. How and why? The day-time active ingredients which include Caffeine, PEG-Ester and TEA-salicylate which are released as soon as the product is applied on the skin, boosting the fat release process in the morning. The Night time active ingredients are composed of the patented extract Phloridzine, the draining complex of Pilosella and Hesperidine Methyl Chalcone (HMC) which are enclosed in silicone microparticles. These are kept on the surface of the skin during the application of the product in order to reach the target cells later on. These active ingredients reduce the storage of fats and increase natural drainage of the body during the evening. For those who flunked science and chemistry let's keep the formula simple. Apply the gel in the morning (seven pumps per application) and just forget about it. Skeptical? Measure one thigh before your first time and then after two weeks because centimeter loss has also been known to happen aside from the smoothing and reduced visibility of cellulite. Just remember to apply it every morning, part of a quick beauty habit and then you're going to wish it was beach and bikini season all year round. Elancyl Lipo-Reducing Concentrate is available at Rustan's Essenses. Get your supply and get addicted.

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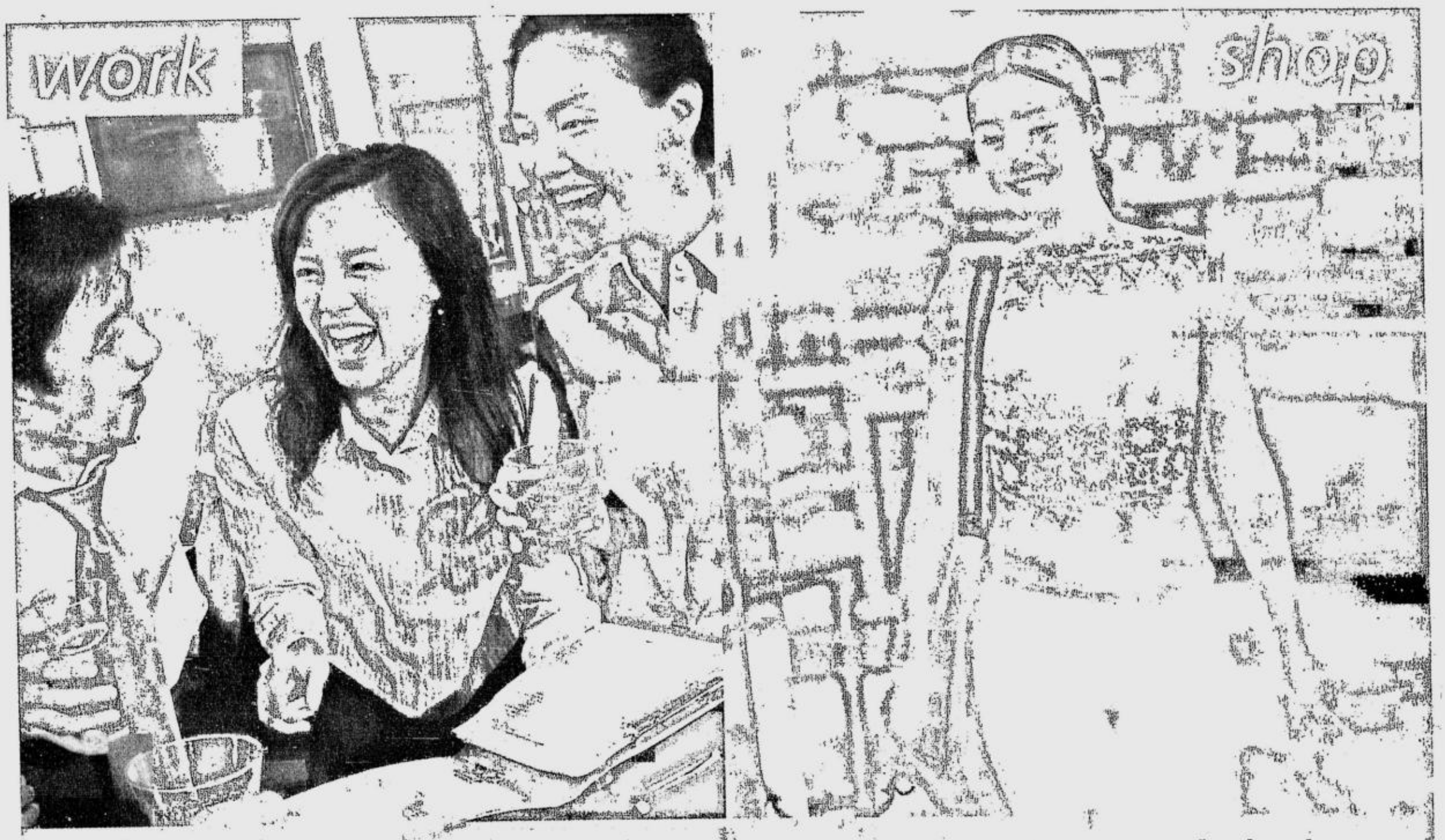


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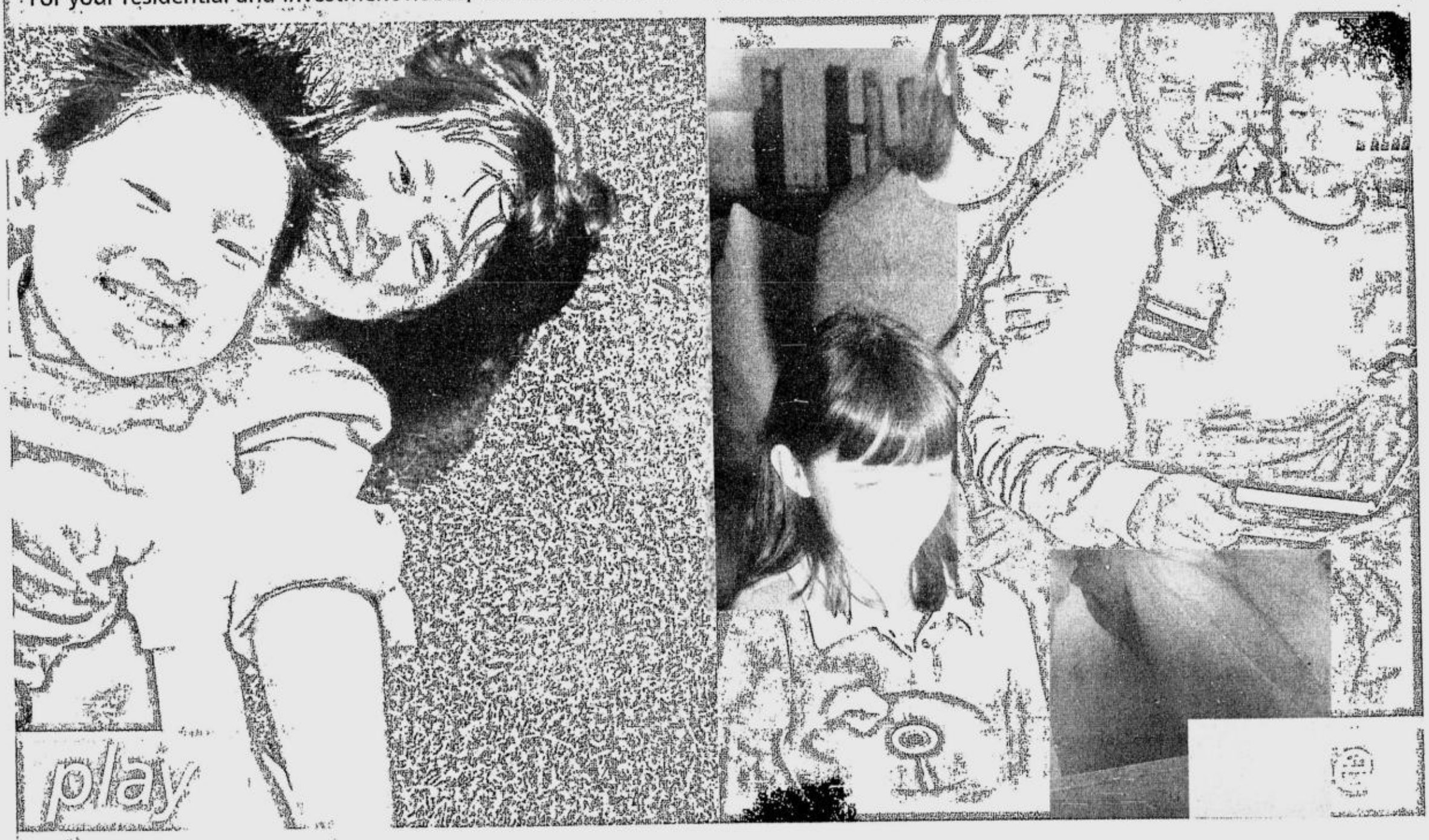


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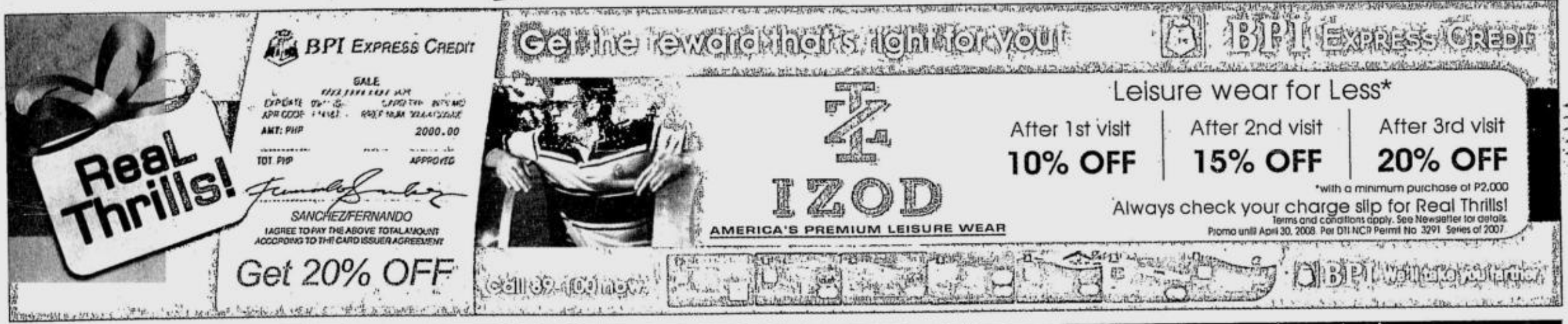



# Say Yes to Piracy

## Avast! Piracy is alive in the country! Meet the cosplaying pirates of Black Pearl Philippines, yo ho ho!

IN A PARALLEL UNIVERSE, where everyday is Halloween, this ragtag bunch wouldn't be doing anything particularly bizarre. Okay I'll state that again, in pirate speak —*parrrticularrrly bizarrrrre*.

*Avast, me mateys*, they're the rhum bottle-swinging, eye patch wearing booty-licious pirates of Black Pearl Philippines. I'm not pulling your wooden leg. Yes, Virginia, there are pirates in the Philippines, yo ho ho! This wonderfully offbeat bunch is engaged in cosplay, or costume play, wherein they elaborately dress and act as pirates, just for fun. A quickie Wiki reveals that cosplays are a Japanese hobby wherein like-minded people gather and dress as manga, anime, fantasy or video game characters.

Fuelled by their love, okay, *obsession* with "The Pirates of the Caribbean," the Black Pearl cosplayers gather and act out their pirate fantasies. (Thereby making my Friday night drinking sessions with my friends suddenly seem really boring). Black Pearl Philippines will be officially indoctrinated in the upcoming fifth New Worlds Alliance convention, aka Disneyland for geeks.

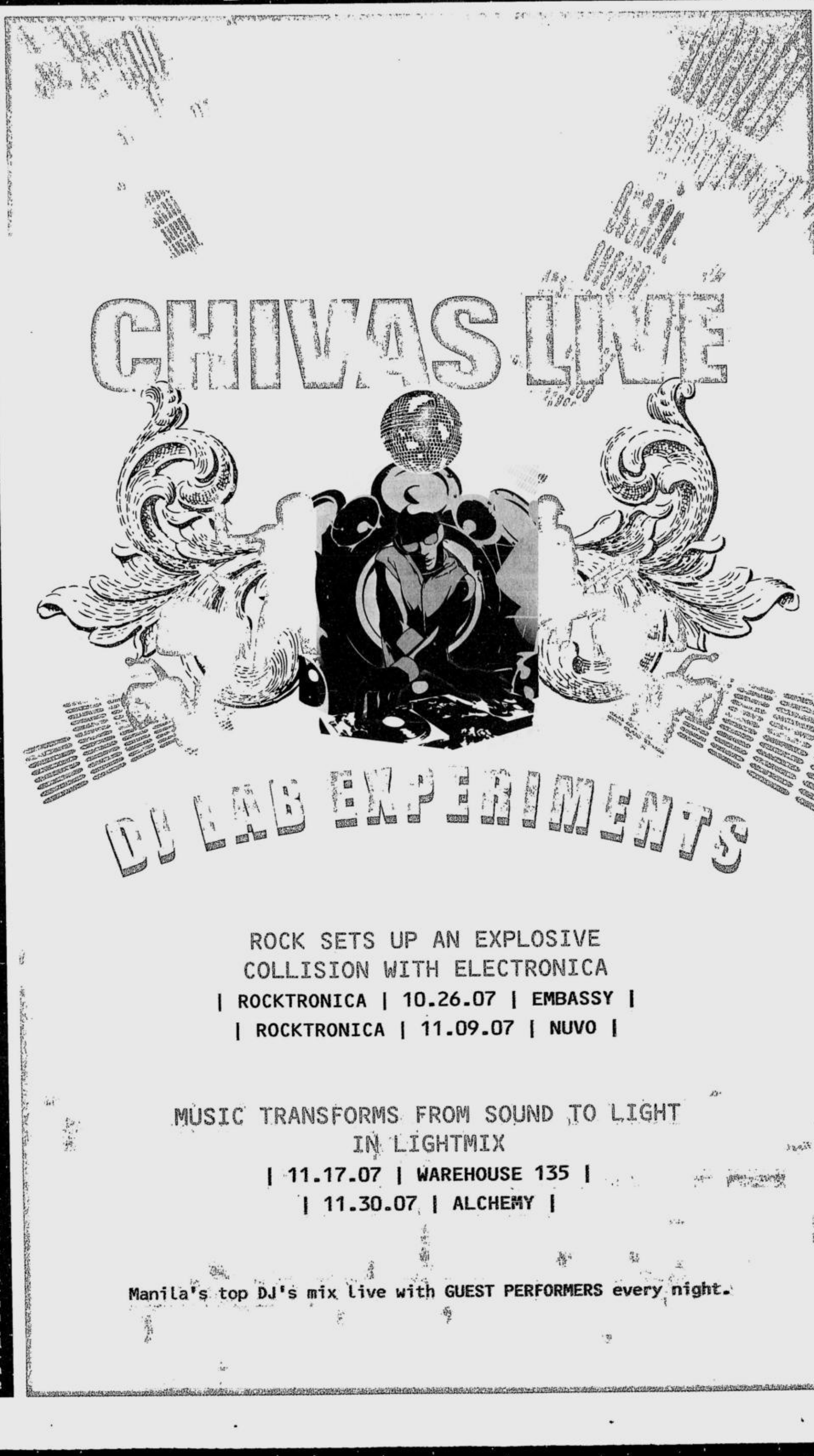
In between swigs of spiced rhum, this landlubber caught up with these pirates, namely Captain Karen "Ass" Teague -slash- Tia Dalma (Karen Kunawicz), Hank "Snakehips" Sparrow (Hank Palenzuela), Will Turner (Patton Lucas), and Commodore Norringtom (Tom Matic) and shot a few questions. Particularly, *why*? Well guess what, it actually turned out to be disturbingly fun! I have since applied to be the de facto parrot of the Caribbean. Here's a share of my booty filled with black pearls of wisdom:

**Yarrr! I heard that Black Pearl Philippines will officially be part of the New Nerds ... er, New Worlds Alliance. Could you tell us how your pirate group started?**

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** *Yarrrrrll!* Well, I'd like to think, as Tia Dalma would say, destiny had a role in this. I've loved Johnny Depp since 1985, so I guess somewhere in the subconscious, in the ether, was planted the seed or well, others would call it a "germ" for Black Pearl Philippines.

The cannonball pretty much started rolling though last Halloween when I invited Hank Palenzuela and Patton Lucas to join me for a hosting job. I asked them to wear some pirate threads and then, well, we had our Jack Sparrow and Will Turner. We also met our future Navigator, Meann of New Worlds, and Rum

SAY YES/ D2



# Say Yes to Piracy

From page D1

Runner Mean of Hard Rock. Then of course there was photographer and chanteusse Wawi Navarroza who has a bit of a pirate in her soul. Two weeks later, we put up a mailing list and now here we *ar-rrrrr!*

**Hank Sparrow:** Ideally, it would be nice to say Black Pearl Philippines got its start in Tortuga. Alas that not being the case. As Dalma so eloquently put it, I was *shang-haied* into hosting a Halloween event. Realizing how much we enjoyed doing the event in costume, it was mutinously agreed that we put together a crew. After asking around, recruiting, parleying and a bit of *shang-haing* of my own we got more crew mates to join up and voila! We now have the Black Pearl, Phil of today. Savvy?

**What is the age range of your fan group? Can one ever be too old to join?**

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** Our youngest active member, Mara is 15. Our oldest is 51. We love, embrace and celebrate what we like to call the Atomic Lolos—just check out the movies look at Mr. Cotton and Gibbs, they're now poster boys for Pirates of the Caribbean! Bill Nighy? Geoffrey Rush? Not exactly spring chickens but we've got some crew who happen to think these men are *sex-eh!*

**Hank Sparrow:** Age range? There is no pirate within range or age that is not eligible to join our crew. We be looking for respectable pirates, not these unsavoury types.

**Commodore Norringtom:** Most definitely not! While one might think that playing pirates and privateers is Peter Pan kid's stuff, fit only for powder monkeys aged 12 and below, one has only to look at all the grown up nautical fiction by authors like Patrick O'Brien, C.S. Forrester, Dudley Pope and of course classics by Robert Louis Stevenson to realize that for many of us, the call of the sea and the lure of adventure only grows stronger with age.

**Will Turner:** Young ... Old ... One Legged ... One Eyed ... No-Eye ... Parrot ... Monkey ... I mean, if it can breathe, mop the decks, serve/drink/burn rhum then yer a pirate! Oh, and likes to say the word "savvy?" all the time too! Savvy?

**So what *arrrre* your gatherings like? Some groups play poker or smoke pot. Do you guys drink rhum and shake your booty?**

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** We call our gatherings "parleys." We usually wear costumes and go to a bar/*partay*, restaurant or coffee shop. There is usually music, bands, drinking, dancing, arrests, debauchery, chocolate, incoherent speech, and lots of picture taking.

**Hank Sparrow:** Riot being a good word for what these shindigs could be called. We haven't been thrown out of any establishments ... yet.

**Commodore Norringtom:** Being a navy man, I'm more of a tea drinker myself and while liars dice is quite popular the only pot that's smoking is the cook's while doling out the rations. As for booty shaking, it's rather hard to lift a treasure chest and shake it around—those things weigh as much as a 24 pounder!

**Will Turner:** What me crew would really like to say is that everytime there is a pirate party there be a lot of pillaging, plundering, people losing wallets/minds/dignity and tons and tons of *YARRRR-ing* till the sun comes up! Aye truly that be a party worth any Aztec gold!

**I remember the first time you texted me last year that it was talk like a pirate day. That filled my friends with joy for a week! Do you all have to talk like pirates when you're together?**

**Hank Sparrow:** Talk like a pirate? Don't have a clue, luv. What ye be talking about? *Methinks* it be a better query if'n ye asks, do we have a "Talk like a Landlubber Day?" Savvy?

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** You mean go, "*dibidi dibidi dibidi?*"

**Commodore Norringtom:** Well, as one who hunts down pirates for a living, I must admit that things *arrrr* a lot more fun when we get the *grarrrammar* and *vocabularrrry* right.

**Encountered any criticism from people who think you guys are too much? How do you deal with them? Do you make them, um, walk the plank?**

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** Aye! As Captain I've certainly taken a few bits, port side, starboard ... I've made a list somewhere of all the critiques ... noted them down on about two whole rolls of environment friendly toilet paper. That's one of the things piracy is all about—taking hits, firing broadsides. I always remember what one pirate told me (imagine this with a German accent) "If you stop getting criticized, you're dead."

**Hank Sparrow:** I personally have heard whisperings in my presence, to recount some of my favorites, "*Lasing ba yan?*" "*Saan galing yan?*" "*Nakatakas sa Mandaluyong?*" "*Sobra sa drugs.*" "My friend, I'm a pirate too. If I join, can I kiss your wife?" "You can't be a captain without a ship" and "*Buang!*" Usually though we're rewarded by the smiles of the people we entertain ... easily eight out of 10 people seem to enjoy our appearances ... the other two just don't get it I guess. But if they just gave it the old buccaneer try, they may see how therapeutically liberating costuming can be.

**Newsweek this year proclaimed that fanboys (and girls) are the new tastemakers, citing the rise of popularity of movies based on comic books and TV shows like "Heroes" that are geek fodder. What do you think about all this "geek chic-ness"? What is it about rabid fans that make them cool?**

**Captain Karen "Ass" Teague:** Maybe the fact we can get so obsessed that things can happen in your life that are tough and difficult but you've got this little zone that gives you a reason to smile? I also think just being able to get a little bit crazy and absorbed in another complex universe, learn its mythology, language, history, details takes a degree of intelligence and a sense of humor—and who doesn't find intelligence and a sense of humor sexy, albeit in an un-

YARR! *Naka* eyepatch.

WALK the plank, landlubber!

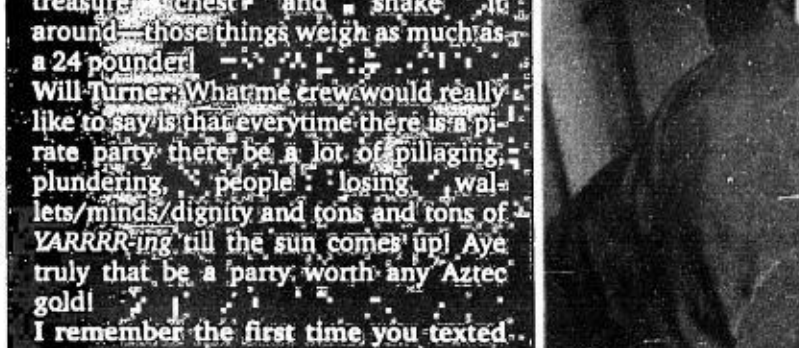
AVAST! Is this a booty call? Karen Kunawicz and Wawi Navarroza

OH CAPTAIN, my Captain Jack



SHIVER ME TIMBERS! Dead Ringer Will Turner and Hank "Snakehips" Sparrow

ANTI-PIRACY squad in Rockwell



BUCCANEER bonding

conventional way?

Commodore Nordingtom: There are no words to describe the feeling one gets walking through Ortigas or Makati in full dress uniform, tricorne on the head, sword at my side, shinier and flashier than a Christmas tree in December, while pedestrians, drivers and security guards can only stop and stare—and wish they had it in them to do what I do.

Will Turner: Geeks? What strange manner of creatures are those? Are they cannibals? Do they have lots of shiny coins? With the current change in the weather and restlessness in the high seas, many landlubbers tend to look for somewhere to escape, hence the recent surge of interest for anything fantasy or science fiction because they can forget who they are, the rules they have to follow and they can hide from the watchful stares of the "people" who they are trying to impress and just be who they always wanted to be!

I mean c'mon, who doesn't want to be a pirate? The epitome of being carefree! Free to do what you feel like doing, free to say what you want to say, and free to follow whatever rules you think is best for you.

*Want to walk the plank? Meet the cosplayers of Black Pearl Philippines on Oct. 27 at the Glorietta Activity Center from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the New Worlds Alliance convention. Email black_pearl_philippines@yahoo.com or sail the online seas at www.blackpearlphils.multiply.com, www.flipnation.ph*

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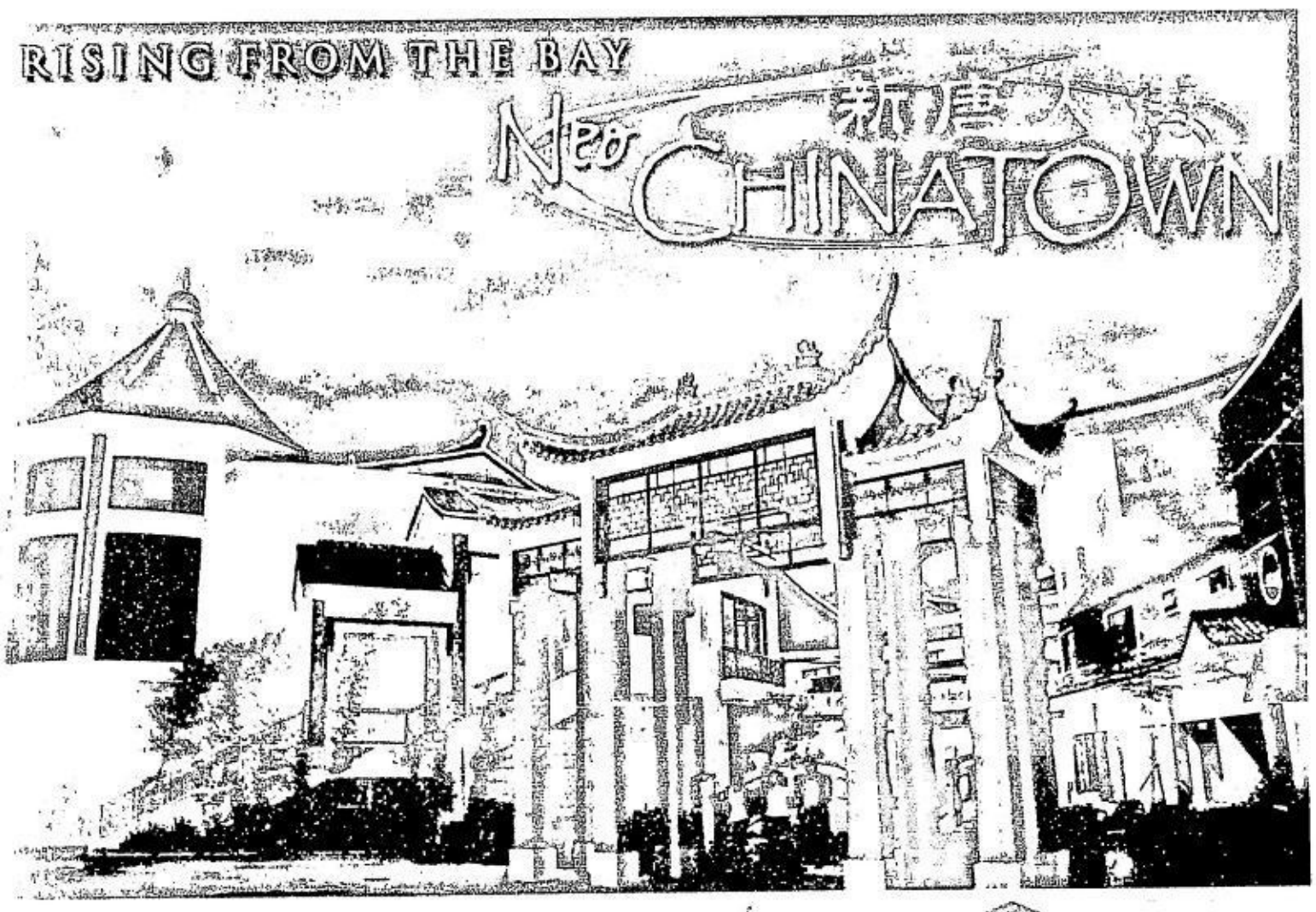

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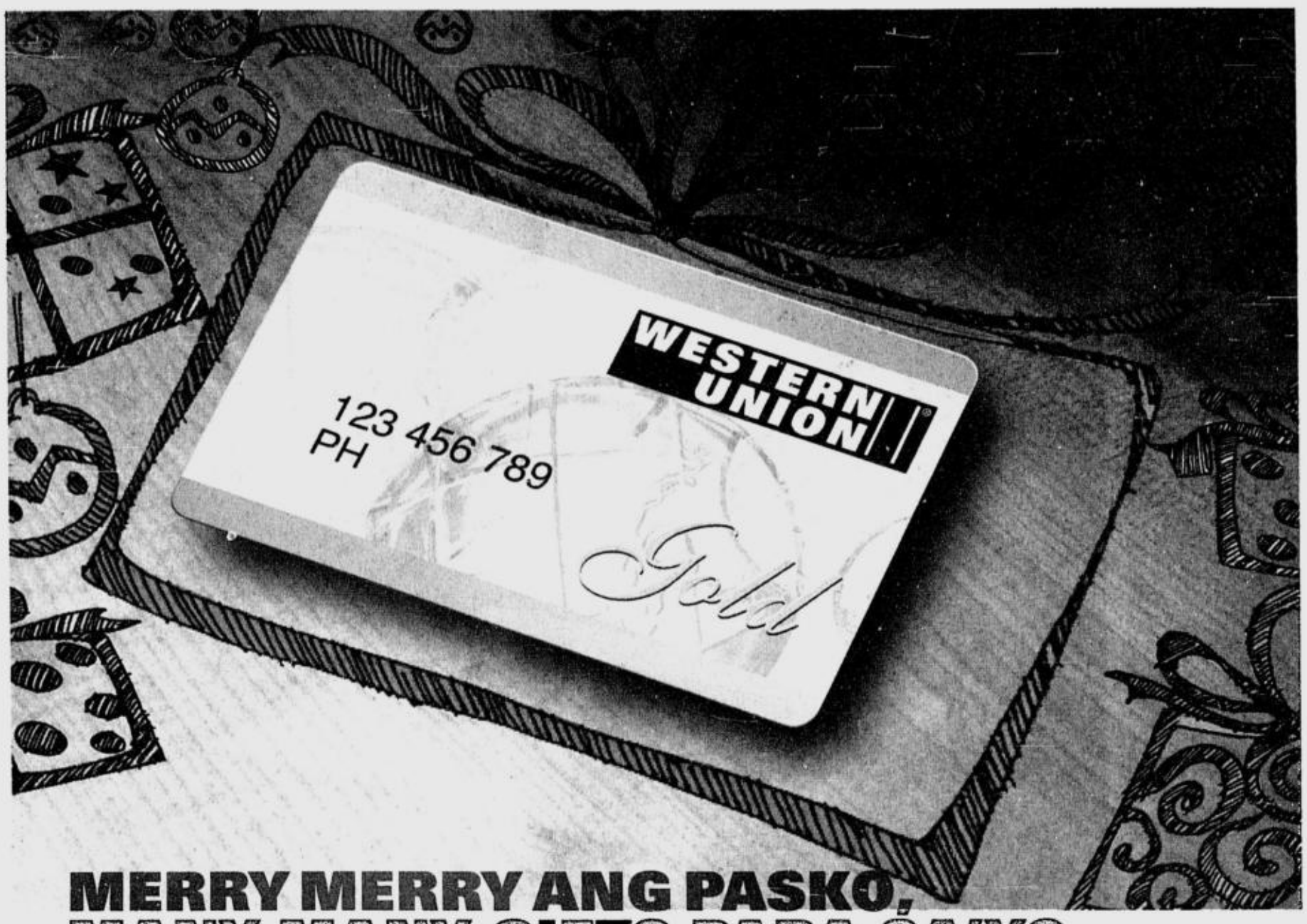


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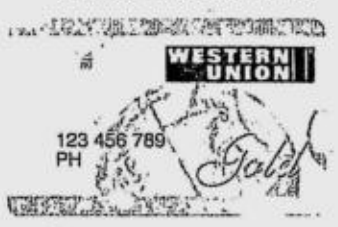


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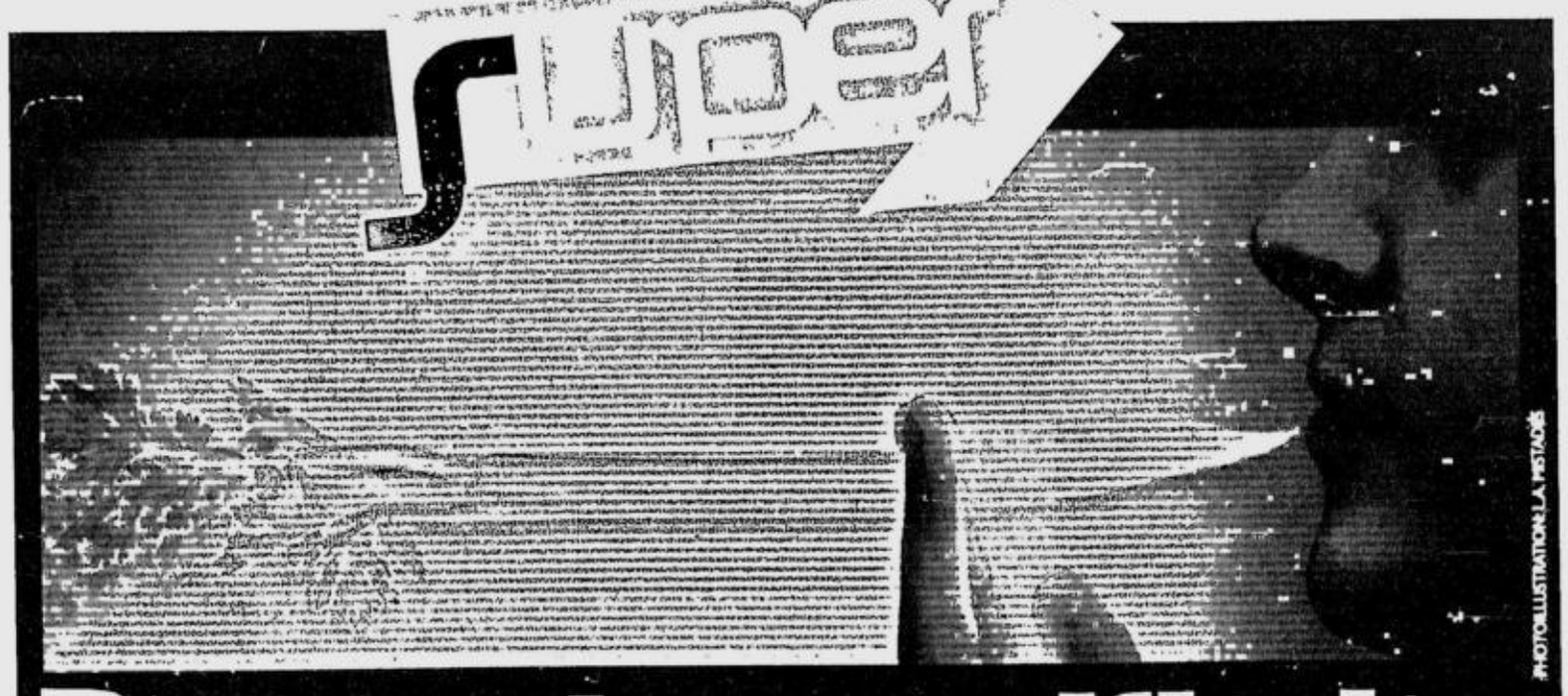


*PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: L.A. PASTADOS

# Detox demystified

By Juana R. Manahan

I USED TO BE AN ADDICT. I realized this one day, after noticing I was nursing a cold for about a month that I was not as healthy as I thought. Smoking, drinking and working hard in between had finally taken its toll. Over a cigarette and coffee, I started to think hard. Newly engaged, I suddenly saw the importance of keeping my life healthy and leading a better lifestyle, for my future family and for the lucky guy who will be my husband. I ditched the cigarette and started thinking of new ways to clean out my body and free my mind from the traps of addiction.

## Addicted to addiction

Most addictions follow a certain cycle. It starts off with the body's rejection of a new substance, like the reflex of a cough with the first puff of a cigarette. Over time, the lungs and throat become used to the smoke that passes through them, and then all of a sudden one day, you can't breathe without it. Smokers, of course, will not admit that it is an addiction. I never did. Addiction is a state of body and mind that cannot function without a crutch, be it smoking, drinking, drugs or even exercise. I know someone who gets short tempered if he cannot get his endorphin fix in the morning, the same way that I used to feel myself burning up with anger if I didn't have a morning cigarette. The only thing that separates good and bad addictions are the consequences on the body.

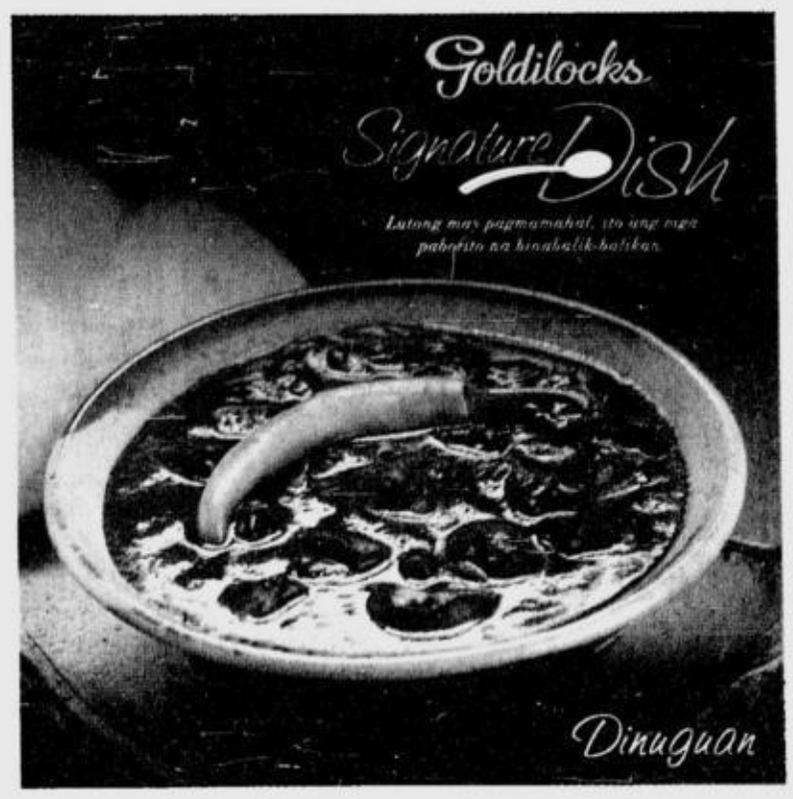
## Healthy freaks

For the most part, society makes it hard for people to live a life full of vices. Drugs are illegal, most bars don't allow smoking, and alcohol is getting more and more expensive. On the other hand, healthy living isn't cheap either. Whole wheat bread is more expensive than normal pan Americana. Junk food is certainly cheaper, tastier and more readily available than healthy food to munch on. After I had given up cigarettes for carrot sticks, gum and pretty much anything else I could eat, I slowly felt the effects of actually wanting to fill myself up with things that would cleanse my system and not merely forcing psyllium husks down my throat. A friend invited me to the Life Well Lived festival held at Eastwood City. I expected it to be full of tree hugging hippie types and to smell of wheatgrass. Instead I found normal people with the air smelling of really appetizing food. The host and speaker Nadine Tengco, US certified fitness nutritionist was on stage preaching the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, while three young guys who looked like they had an overdose of whey protein jumped around doing back flips. Funny as they looked, they certainly seemed to be at the peak of health.

## Living addiction

Let's face it: most healthy food takes a bit of getting used to. They trick our minds into believing they are the familiar foods we know and love, while our taste buds tell us something else. San Remo pasta for example, is made of wheat instead of the usual sweet white flour. It lacks the sweetness that we are used to from regular pasta, but for zero trans-fat in each serving, I might make the change. The Life Well Lived project shows consumers that a healthy lifestyle is not as unreachable as we used to think. They are also more products that are more inexpensive

DETOX/ E3

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# To have and to hold

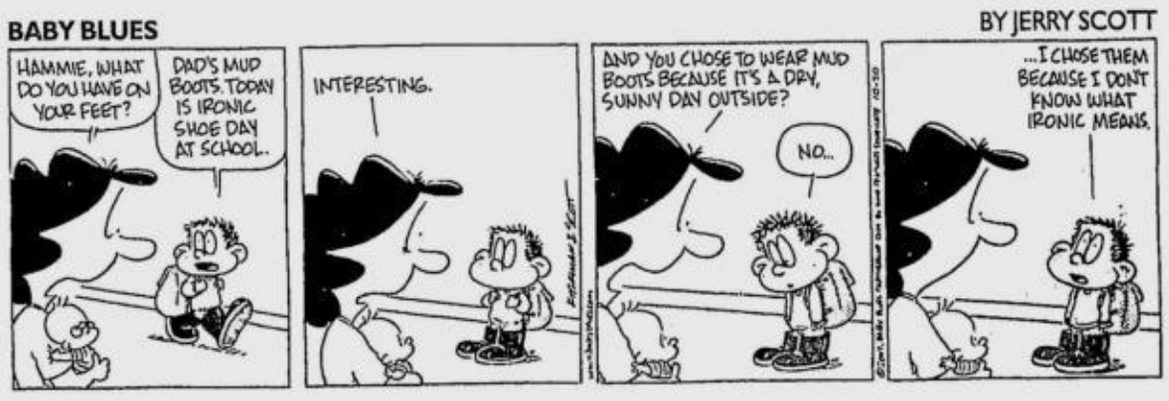
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

**A. LIPIN** — BY JESS ABRERA

**PUGAD BABOY** — BY P.M. JUNIOR

**GARFIELD** — BY JIM DAVIS

**BABY BLUES** — BY JERRY SCOTT



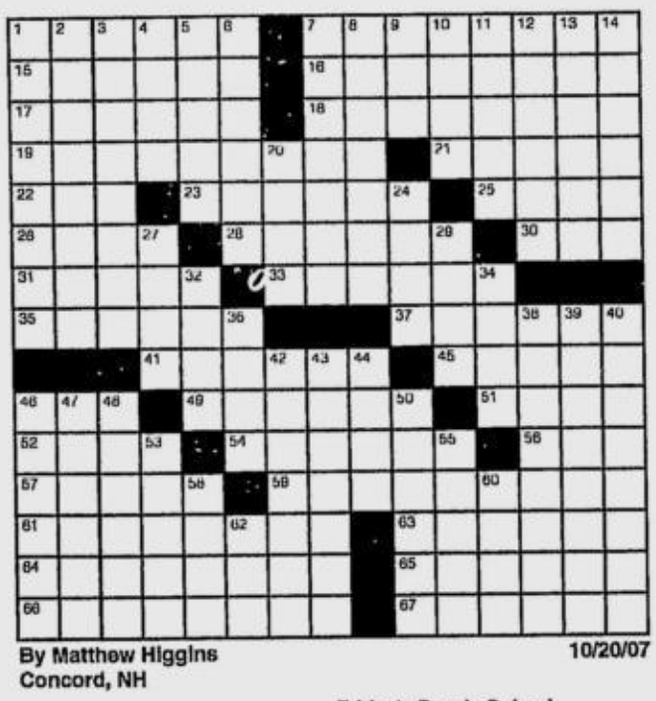

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

**LOVEKNOTS** — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

**KIKO MACHINE** — BY MANIX ABRERA

**BEN** — BY DANIEL SHELTON

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

10/20/07

**ACROSS**
1 Gem cut to resemble a beetle
7 Adjudication board
15 Last syllable of a word
16 Playful banter
17 Scram!
18 Puts in office
19 Spiel
21 Pirouettes
22 Nest-egg letters
23 Episodic TV show
25 Fuss
26 Carol or ballad
28 Treats one without respect
30 One of the Bobbsey Twins
31 Ballet skirts
33 Signs of repetition
35 Remain at home
37 Accustomed
41 Nods off
45 Teatime treat
46 __ voyage!
49 Innate ability
51 Embraces
52 Shrinking Asian sea
54 Stickler for correctness
56 Fleur-de-__
57 Sieved into pellets
59 Follow unexpectedly
61 Aurora __ (Northern Lights)
63 Rock on the edge
64 Optional
65 Last part of a sonnet
66 Models anew
67 Organic compounds

**DOWN**
1 Maintains life
2 Leave abruptly
3 Mythological runner
4 Solemn ceremony
5 Out of order
6 RBI word
7 Capital of Georgia
8 Most foul
9 Psyche divisions
10 Drill parts
11 Not appropriate
12 Country
13 Order of business
14 Classroom exercise
20 Parched
24 Planet-finding grp.
27 Fellows
29 "__ and Lovers"
32 Sandy deposit
34 Of this kind
36 Type of tide
38 Wheel of fortune?
39 Railroad man
40 Cobbler and flan
42 Hard to catch
43 Inspects carefully
44 Clipped-off piece
46 Close shave master
47 Bird at Camden Yards
48 Parts of mollusk shells
50 Feared fly
53 Sponger
55 Joyce Kilmer poem
58 Items of info
60 Brit's undershirt
62 Sass

**Friday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | E | S | S | ■ | E | L | O | P | E | ■ | E | R | A | S |
| O | S | L | O | ■ | M | O | R | A | L | ■ | V | E | G | A |
| S | C | A | M | ■ | P | A | S | T | A | S | A | L | A | D |
| H | A | N | N | A | H | M | O | N | T | A | N | A | ■ | ■ |
| O | P | T | I | M | A | ■ | ■ | A | E | F | ■ | T | A | X |
| W | E | S | ■ | A | T | R | A | ■ | R | E | V | I | L | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | H | I | E | L | D | ■ | ■ | C | O | I | N |
| H | O | T | E | L | C | A | L | I | F | O | R | N | I | A |
| M | A | R | X | ■ | ■ | P | O | R | O | U | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| O | K | A | Y | E | D | ■ | T | E | N | S | ■ | T | A | B |
| S | S | I | ■ | R | E | S | ■ | ■ | T | E | J | A | N | O |
| ■ | ■ | N | O | R | T | H | T | O | A | L | A | S | K | A |
| O | P | E | N | S | E | A | S | O | N | ■ | M | E | L | S |
| W | O | R | K | ■ | S | P | A | H | N | ■ | B | R | E | T |
| L | I | S | P | ■ | T | E | R | S | E | ■ | S | S | T | S |

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10/20/07

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You have a strong influence over others, even to the point of setting trends. You're enthusiastic about life, and many of you have excellent business savvy. Often, your hobby competes with your vocation. You're aware of appearances and like to look your best. In the year ahead, an important choice might present itself to you. Choose wisely.

**Birthdate of:** Viggo Mortensen, actor; Tom Petty, musician; Mickey Mantle, baseball player.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Conversations with partners and friends could be important today. You might discuss how to make big changes or major improvements to something.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You have ideas about how to introduce reforms or improvements at work. You might have similar ideas about how to improve your own health as well. You're on to something!

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** If you have an opportunity to talk to children or young people today, you'll probably give them good advice. Or if you're a parent or you work with children, someone will give you advice!

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** This is the perfect day to do a serious cleanup at home, especially to bathroom areas or anything having to do with plumbing, garbage and dark basements.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** You're enormously convincing today! You can sell, teach, persuade, market or push any idea you have. If you need to research or study something, you're on your game!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** If you have an idea today about a new source of income, give it some serious thought. There are ways for you to boost your wealth if you are open to new concepts.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Take a look in the mirror today. The stars are urging you to think about how you can improve your appearance or transform your image in some way. Well?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Your research skills are fabulous today. You probably will be successful at finding answers that you seek. In fact, you might also discover secrets. (Oops!)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** A friend or a member of your group is very powerful today. Someone wants to persuade you to agree with his or her point of view. Hmmm.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** You might decide to take an entirely new approach to how you deal with a parent, boss, teacher or some other authority figure. Today offers you a chance to put a new spin on things.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** You might change your views about something or even your beliefs. New information from other sources is revealing and convincing for you today.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You're able to see new uses for old things today. You see how to adapt things in an entirely new way. (This can be handy!)

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** — By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 6 | 1 | 3 | | | 7 |
| | | 7 | | | | 6 | | |
| | 6 | | | 4 | | | 8 | |
| | | 1 | | | | 2 | | |
| | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 4 | | | 3 | | | 7 | |
| | | 2 | | | | 3 | | |
| 7 | | | 8 | 6 | 4 | | | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/20

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### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

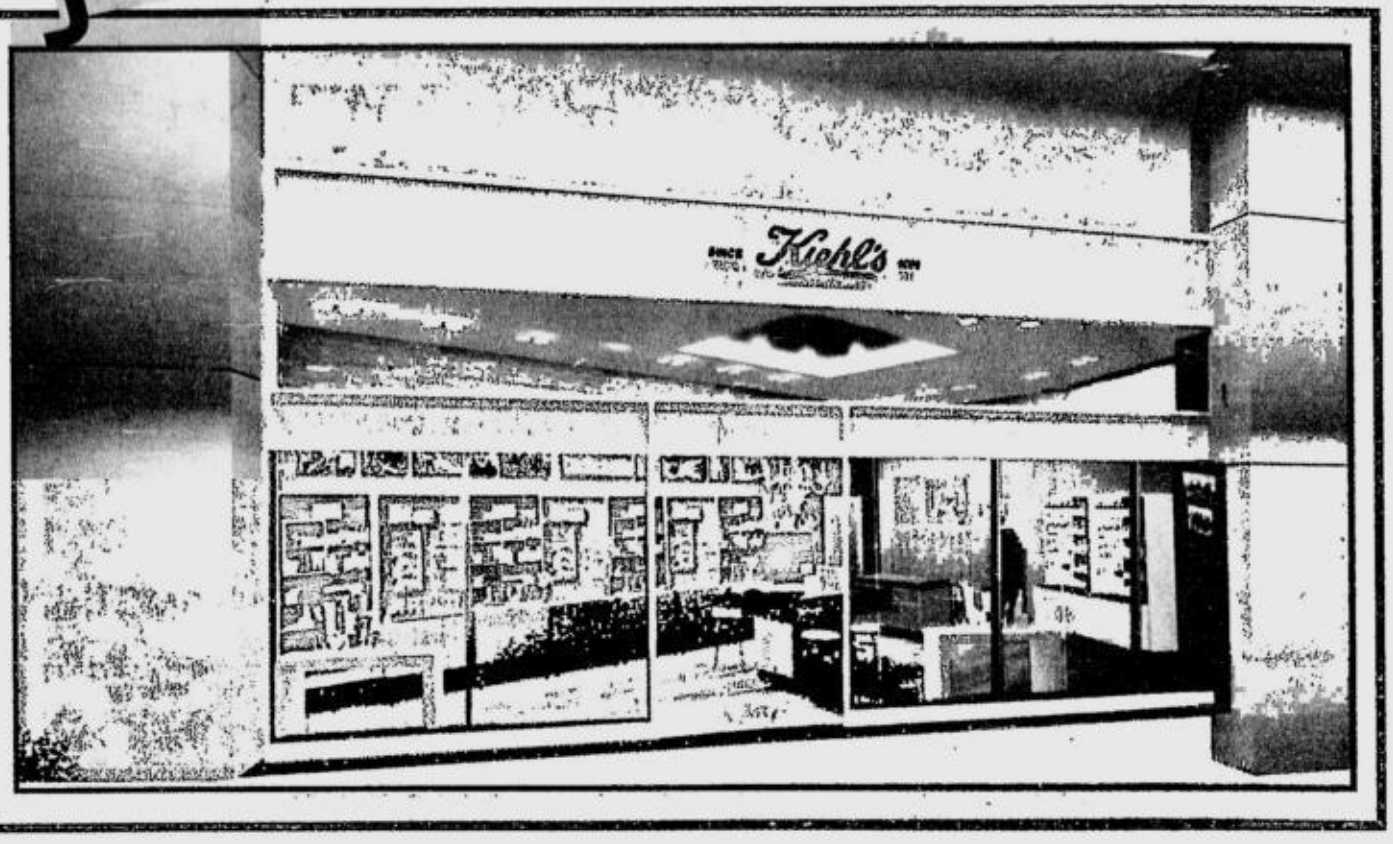
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

# Gospel for lip balm addicts




## It took three long years–but Kiehl's is finally here

OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO, A mission was declared. This declaration became the cornerstone of a philosophy that guides Kiehl's to this very day.

### Kiehl's in Manila

On Oct. 25, after three years of waiting for the right place and the right time, Kiehl's Since 1851 will finally be rolling out the red carpet to welcome Filipinos into its new home in Manila! Opening its first Philippine freestanding store, Kiehl's, together with Globe and HSBC, will be celebrating its arrival with classic fanfare, quaint treats and glamour at the Greenbelt 5 Fashion and Lifestyle Center.

Kiehl's Since 1851 was founded as an old-world apothecary in New York's East Village over 150 years ago. Its unique and extensive background represents a blend of cosmetic, pharmaceutical, herbal and medicinal knowledge developed through the generations.

Today, the flagship store in New York is a firm fixture in its community, and every single Kiehl's branch around the world has become the same for every town and city it holds post. With a great commitment to service and community, the fundamental philosophies, product standards and core values that have always distinguished Kiehl's remain unchanged: Science, Education, Giving, Service, Respect, and Quality.

To celebrate the store's opening, Kiehl's Since 1851 Worldwide General Manager Rob Robillard will attend the event to greet Kiehl's Manila's first customers, in a magnificent New York-inspired evening alive to tunes played by the Manila Symphony Orchestra and singer Skarlet, and plenty of fresh cocktails for toasting. Without missing a philanthropic beat, Kiehl's' launch will benefit Diether Ocampo's K.I.D.S. Foundation, the first beneficiary in the brand's dynamic plans to give back to the community—something that is natural, rather than unique to the Kiehl's brand as children are a key cause for the brand worldwide.

At a night where New York meets Manila, customers will get to try products for the first time in true Kiehl's fashion, and everyone's lips will be pampered in Lip Balm #1, as well as cheered by 3Vodka, Finlandia, Jagermeister, and Paraiso cocktails.

*Kiehl's opens at the Greenbelt 5 Fashion and Lifestyle Center on Oct. 26. The "Kiehl's is Finally Here!" Party is made possible by Globe and HSBC; and supported by 3Vodka, Finlandia, Jagermeister, Paraiso and Premier Wines.*

# Detox demystified

From page E1

than we used to think, with brands such as Walter Breads, San Remo Pastas and Clara Ole readily available at the supermarket. I was surprised to see platters of cold cuts, sausages, salami, cheese and all sorts of farm-cured goodies provided by Earle's Delicatessen. They were all genuinely porky as possible, without the artificial colors and preservatives. Healthy living is not simply about weight loss or stopping a bad habit, but has a lot to do with every little thing that goes in our body. That includes little doses of chemicals found in many processed foods that we enjoy daily.

While my newfound lung capacity is something I marvel at everyday since I quit smoking, the one cigarette on a social occasion doesn't do the harm that it used to do. The important thing to note is that kicking an addiction and freeing your mind from a crutch is the liberating factor. Spinning, running and all the aerobic exercises are no longer tedious tasks, but something that I need to keep my mood on an elevated level. There is just something gratifying about breaking into a sweat and releasing all the toxins that cling to my cells from years of partying hard. As I learned from my change of lifestyle the Life Well lived project, living healthy is addicting.

**There's a saying that goes, "less is more."**
That's exactly what goes into **C2 Lite**. It's your favorite C2 taste with less calories, no sugar, and yet complete with the goodness of green tea.

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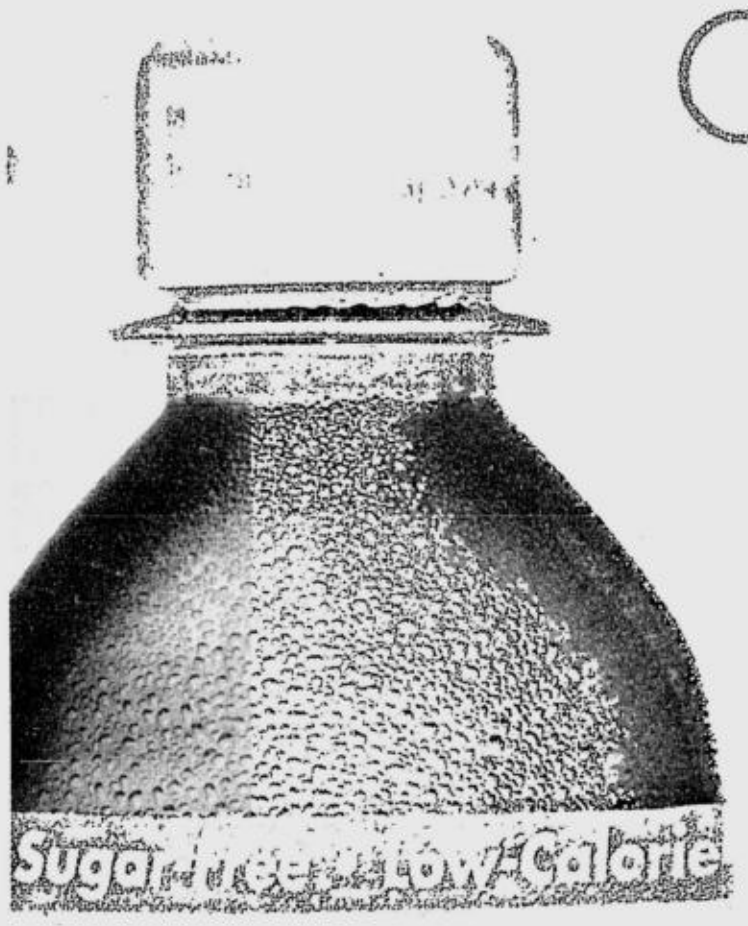
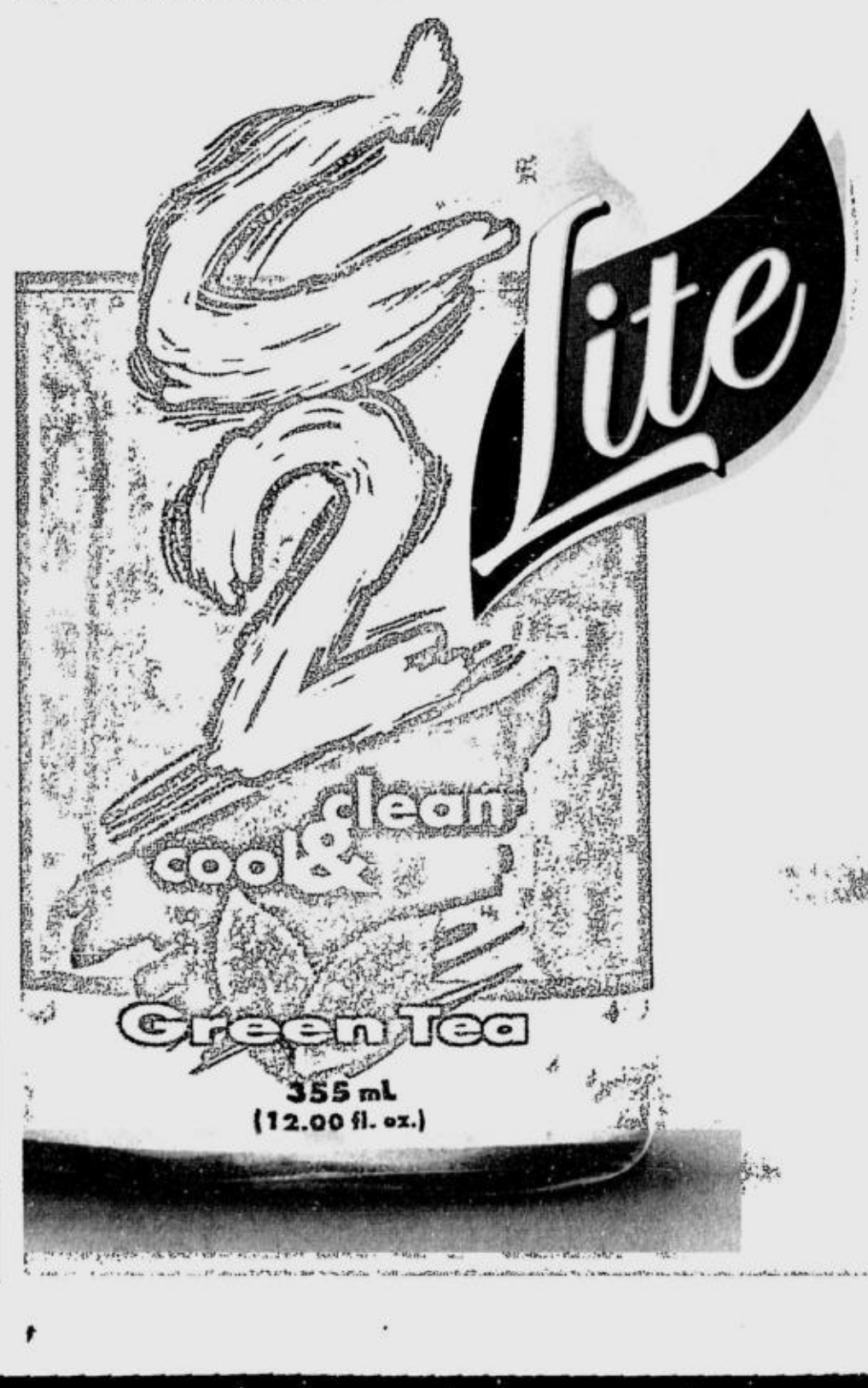


# IPOD AMBUSH
# Not just on Tuesdays

**Super gave Tuesday Vargas an iPod Nano to thank her for giving the local music scene a boost. You can win one too!**

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jill Lejano

SUPER HAS BEEN KEEPING busy spotting local musicians we think you should hear. We stalk them at gigs, get them to spill the beans about their music and we give them an iPod Nano (yeah the older one)—a gift from us and Steve Jobs for giving the local music scene a boost. But here's the really cool part—every time we give them an iPod Nano, we get to give you one too.

This week, we iPod Ambushed comic genius Tuesday Vargas.

**Caught at...** a gig in Mag:Net Katipunan and a photo shoot for her portfolio

**Currently busy with...** making rounds in the underground gig circuit with her band Top Junk, writing songs for their album, raising money for their music video and filming a movie with Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo.

**Describes their music as...** "It's basically disco-punk with crazy lyrics. Our songs are kinda like nursery rhymes for dancing adults."

**What's one song you can't stop listening to now?** "I have two favorites right now. 'Paris 2004' from Peter, Bjorn and John. It never fails to make me smile. It's the dork rock that gets me. The other song is called 'Svefn-g-englar' from Sigur Ros, an ethereal rock band from Iceland. It puts me in a trance."

**What five songs should our readers put in their iPods?** "Across the Universe" - The Beatles; "Little Wing" - Jimmy Hendrix; "The New Pollution" - Beck; "Charmer" - Kings of Leon; "Silent All These Years" - Tori Amos with Leonard Cohen.

**How to get your dose of Tuesday Vargas:** Go to Top Junk's gigs—Wednesdays at Freedom Bar, at Penguin Bar in Malate on Oct. 26, Route 196 on Oct. 31, Lomo Love 2 at Cubao X on Nov. 10 and Mag:Net High Street on Nov. 17. She has regular gigs at comedy bars—Zirkoh Timog on Sundays, Zirkoh Greenhills on Wednesdays and Klowns Angeles on Oct. 24.

### Win an iPod Nano!

Prove to us that you're Tuesday Vargas' biggest fan and win an iPod Nano! E-mail your entries to super@inquirer.com.ph along with your name, age, school/office and contact info.

**TUESDAY** and the rest of Top Junk at Mag:Net Katipunan


WELCOME TO
HALLOWOOD
BE WITH US THIS HALLOWEEN, OCTOBER 31!

THE PODIUM

Playtime with Baby Looney Tunes
October 21, 11am onwards
A whole day of fun with the Baby Looney Tunes.

Happy Halloween Hall Brigade
October 28 to 30, 3pm
Be spellbound by witches, wizards, superheroes and enchanting creatures.

Happy Hallowood @ The Podium
October 31, 10am onwards
A not-so-spooky event for young ghosties, goblins, wizards, superheroes and fairy princesses! Enjoy exciting games and win fabulous prizes with our **Hallowood Costume Contest**.

Happy Hallowood Trick or Treating
October 31, 10am to 2pm / 5pm to 7pm
Kids! Come to the mall for some Halloween tricks and Hallowood treats!

THE BLOCK SM City North Edsa

Halloween Hall Brigade
October 21 and 27, 3pm
Prepare to be haunted, startled, and horror-struck as the famous movie monsters walk around the mall to greet you a "Happy Halloooooween!"

A Hollywood Scare Fest
October 27, 3pm
Dress up like your favorite Hollywood monster, have your scariest photo taken, paint pumpkins, enjoy Halloweentertainment shows and monstermific prizes!

Scooby Doo's Spooktacular Halloween
October 28 - November 3
The town's favonte dog comes for the Halloween celebration! Put on your Scooby Doo masks, chase ghosts with Scooby and find mystery mummies!

Trick or Treat
October 31, 10am to 2 pm / 5pm to 7pm
Knock at The Block for the trickiest treats this Halloween!


## 24/7

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

**TASTE the sweetness of wonder all over again tonight with Repertory Philippines' Cinderella at On Stage in Greenbelt. The Timeless fairy tale meets Disney magic in the adaptation of the treasured animated film will surely be a hit with the kids and the child in you. Call 891-1111.**

**SEE Filipino Pride at Yahang Pinoy's Global Pinoy Bazaar where the Filipino skill and artistry are shown off for your shopping pleasure. Fashion, arts, design, music, lifestyle products to be proud about are well-represented in this wide array of products from various local designers and artists. Oct. 21, Rockwell Tent, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 09178151513, or e-mail yahangpinoy@gmail.com. SEE and explore the new possibilities in contemporary dance at the Instituto Cervantes Manila's Modern Dance Workshop on Oct. 22. Alberto Huetos will conduct the workshop from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for all interested choreographers and dancers. Call 526-1447.**

global PINOY Bazaar

**HEAR the strong rhythmic undertones of Flamenco and just be blown away by the impassioned dance of the Andalusian region of Spain as Instituto Cervantes presents Flamencos: David Perez Almagro. Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Carlos Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Call 526-1482 to 85 or visit manila.cervantes.es.**

**EXPERIENCE Pinoy pop culture through the sheer randomness and fortunate accidents of Lomography in Lomotetal Pinoy Pop Culture: Team Manila vs Lomomanila Exhibit. Maybe then we'll understand why Lomo enthusiasts are the way they are. Opening at 8 p.m. on Oct. 26 at Team Manila 1468 Jupiter Avenue, Makati City.**

**SMELL the sweet aroma of great cuisine at M Café who is featuring Bento Box, a wide array of Asian fusion goodies. Six different combination sets will surely be the toast of hungry gastronomes all over! Pumpkin Curry Risotto with seared scallops, House Smoked Salmon Pasta, Togerashi Chicken and Corn Pasta, Korean BBQ Wings, Coconut Crusted Tofu with Enoki Mushrooms, and Beef Tenderloin Rendang with Gratin Sweet Potato—hungry yet? Bento Meals are available from 12-2:30 p.m. and 6-10:30 p.m. at M Café, Greenbelt 4, Makati City. Call 757-3000, 757-6000 for reservations.**

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SCREENCAP FROM STARCRAFT

War of the cyberworlds

# The killing machine

By Wanggo Gallaga

VIDEO KILLED THE RADIO star and, as it seems, video games have killed quite a few Koreans. I'm not talking about cyber monsters coming to life from the monitor all Sadako-like and actually killing people. I'm talking about reading reports from the web how, in 2005, a 28-year old man died of a cardiac arrest because he was exhausted from playing Starcraft. Yes, he was playing for longer than 50 hours and subsisting only on minimal food and cigarettes. And this is not the first case of it happening. It was first recorded as far back as 2002.

According to BBC news online, there are over 17 million gamers in South Korea and that's not counting the several hundreds in Makati Avenue. South Korea must be such a happening place if most people would prefer to hole up in an Internet café for several days and play online games, right? It must be such a happening place if they are all flocking here too ... to play networking games with other Koreans. One article I read browsing through the Internet stated that a high school student left home for class one day and came back 2 weeks later, not having gone to school and spending those 14 days battling it out with other gamers in cyber space. Now if they didn't wear cardigans and pumps to the beach, they'd be my favorite race in the world.

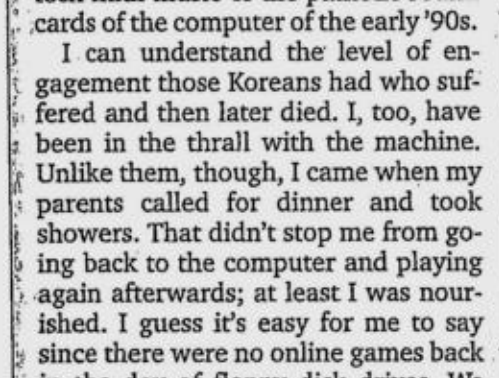
## Mind versus machine

But I can't really go down too hard on them. Some games, I will admit, are truly engaging. I can't speak for the real time games like Counter Strike or Warcraft. It's not really my cup of tea and I'm not saying that just because I have a tendency to panic. I just can't think that quickly while I'm on my ass. I have always preferred the turn based strategy games in the era of floppy disks. I could lose myself in those game, my mind completely drawn into the computer screen, my hand becoming one with the mouse. I would become one with the computer. Nothing else mattered. There was no reality except that of the game. I'd play for hours, listening to the awfully low-tech midi music of the pathetic sound cards of the computer of the early '90s.

I can understand the level of engagement those Koreans had who suffered and then later died. I, too, have been in the thrall with the machine. Unlike them, though, I came when my parents called for dinner and took showers. That didn't stop me from going back to the computer and playing again afterwards; at least I was nourished. I guess it's easy for me to say since there were no online games back in the day of floppy disk drives. We didn't have virtual friends we've never met. In those days, we really just played with ourselves.

Yes, my name is Wanggo and I am a computer game addict.

Problem downloading?




**Railroad Tycoon**—Lay down your tracks and buy your trains and send them throughout cities in America circa late 1800s. This game is a true test of your planning and logistic skills. **Longest playing time:** 8 hours. **Useful Thing I Could Have Done In that time:** Read the Little Prince twice

THE KILLING/ F2

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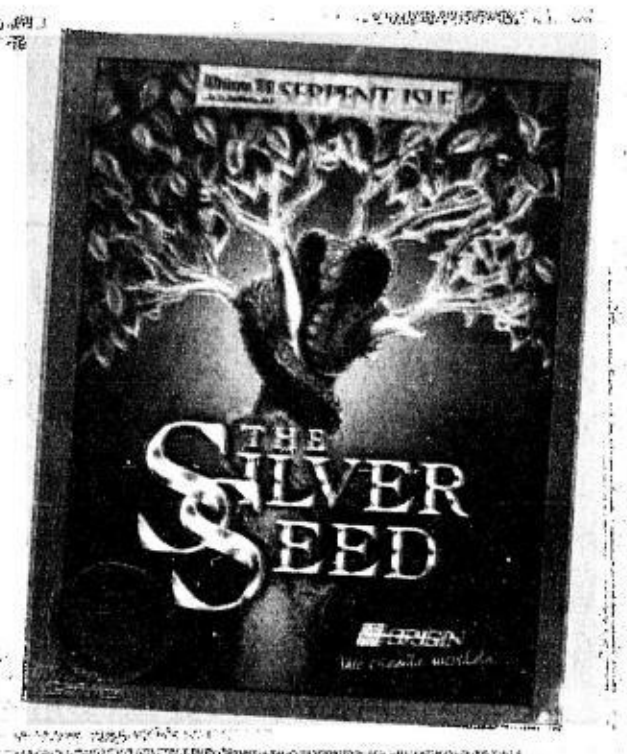


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PIGGYBANK TRAVEL

# An acquired taste of travel

By Pam Romualdez

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If you're on a budget or lack the leisure of time, the best way to travel to Laos is via the Nong Kai border. It's about an hour away from the capital, Vientienne, which is the gateway no matter if you are to head north or south of the country. If you're visiting for the first time, you must head north, that's where Vang Vieng is, and that's where all the fun begins!

## How to get there

Going to Laos directly may be difficult and impractical, so you may want to book a flight to Bangkok first. Local and foreign budget airlines from Manila to Bangkok offer competitive prices all year round while a slue of flights daily are offered by the bigger airlines. From Bangkok, Air Asia flies to the southwestern rural province of Udon Thani. Here, you can hire a limousine for THB100 per head to take you to the Nong Kai border (do not be mislead, limousines in Bangkok are really just Philippine versions of public transport vans better known as the FX). For the more upscale traveler, you may hire your own car to take you to the border, but you cannot take it all the way to Laos-not only will the driving orientation change (Bangkok: right hand drive; Laos: left hand drive), but it will cause more headaches for you in the long run.

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## The capital: Vientienne

Arriving at the capital one must not expect to see skyscrapers and massive construction sites. Laos is a country just waking up to modernization so it is yet to become a concrete jungle most capitals evolve into.

## Lodging

One of the best places to stay for its value is Pheonphesuth Guesthouse. For $12 a night, this three-story building's basic accommodation of two single beds and private bath are popular even among the businessmen who come and visit. I know this because I would watch them get into their rented Mercedes Benz dressed in their tailored suits as I ate my breakfast at the café across the street. For the more budget-conscious, other guesthouses that have shared baths and a choice of more spacious rooms with either a one queen-sized bed or two single beds are plentiful. These places have a more rustic feel and usually share a common lounge area or balcony compared to the narrow corridors and white walls of Phoenphesuth.

## Food

European style bakeries can be found in the town square smack in the middle of everything. Whether you're in the mood for a very filling French, American, or German breakfast you can sit at any of the many lined up next to each other to enjoy food that guarantees value for your money (like most everything in this country). All these cafes serve meals that are generous in their portions for an average between $3-5 per meal. If you wish to explore local cuisine, rice meals are the way to go. They are very filling and can be shared by two. These usually cost $4 and you can cap it off with a liter-sized bottle of Lao Beer (usually $1). For the more adventurous traveler with equally adventurous taste buds (and stomachs), small carinderia-type restaurants can be found lined up on the street along the Mekong River. The best noodle soup recipes can be found here, and just like those stalls found in the streets of Bangkok, they're not only most authentic they're definitely the cheapest! A heaping bowl of Duck Mami Noodles costs less than a dollar.

Almost all places of accommodation arrange travel to the North or South of Laos. Since the price difference from doing it on your own and booking with your guesthouse is very minimal, it is advisable to save yourself the hassle and just ask the inn keeper for guaranteed bus or van seats. As earlier said, a choice between the North and South direction is made in Vientienne. In my case, I chose to go up to Vang Vieng where I hear people come together for one common goal: To explore and have worry-free, careless fun. A word of advice: For those who expect to leave on time, odds are you won't, so grab a book and read off the delay.

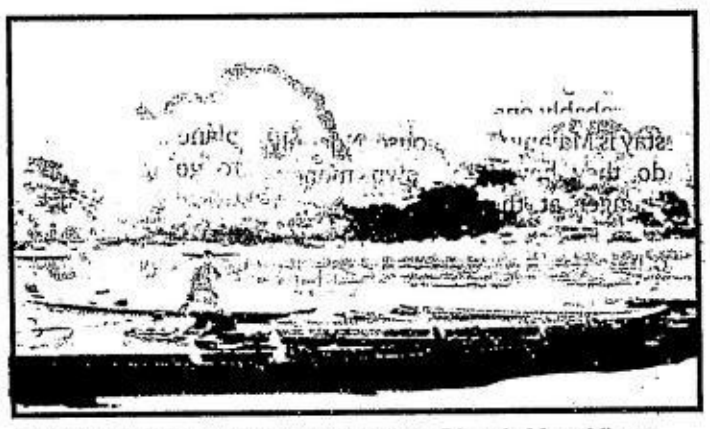
## Off to the rustic: Vang Vieng

Vang Vieng can be reached from the capital at an approximate five and a half hour travel time. Along the way, you come across tractors hauling hay, men pushing carts of fruit and a lot of rice fields that reflect the sun's orange rain slowly sinking in the horizon.

In Vang Vieng you find no cemented roads. The main road, coincidentally also called Khao San (like in Bangkok), is basically a very wide, orange, dusty dirt road. At the very end of this road you will find the Mekong River while the side streets along the way are where you will stumble upon shops, motor and mountain bikes for rent as well as tour organizers. Since I read in a guidebook that Wildside is the trustworthy place to book you a guided adventure tour, I decided to set myself up here. I found the $30 charge a little steep in the beginning, but white water kayaking along the Mekong with stops to two caves, an organic farm and not to mention the provided lunch of Jasmine rice and chicken and beef kebabs, was-yet again-good value for your money!

If you want to just take it easy and be less sporty, you may rent a tube for $8 (good for the whole day) and just sit on it all the way down the Mekong. You make your own rules and stops and because you are not paddling, you will be able to enjoy the enormous karsts that sit right beside the river a lot more. For lunch, river restaurants or bars are very close and not far between. Pit stops here are always welcome and most of them provide a rig where you can hold on to a bar that slides down from a steep tower and ends at the river just in time for you to jump in for a refreshing dip! This is free and

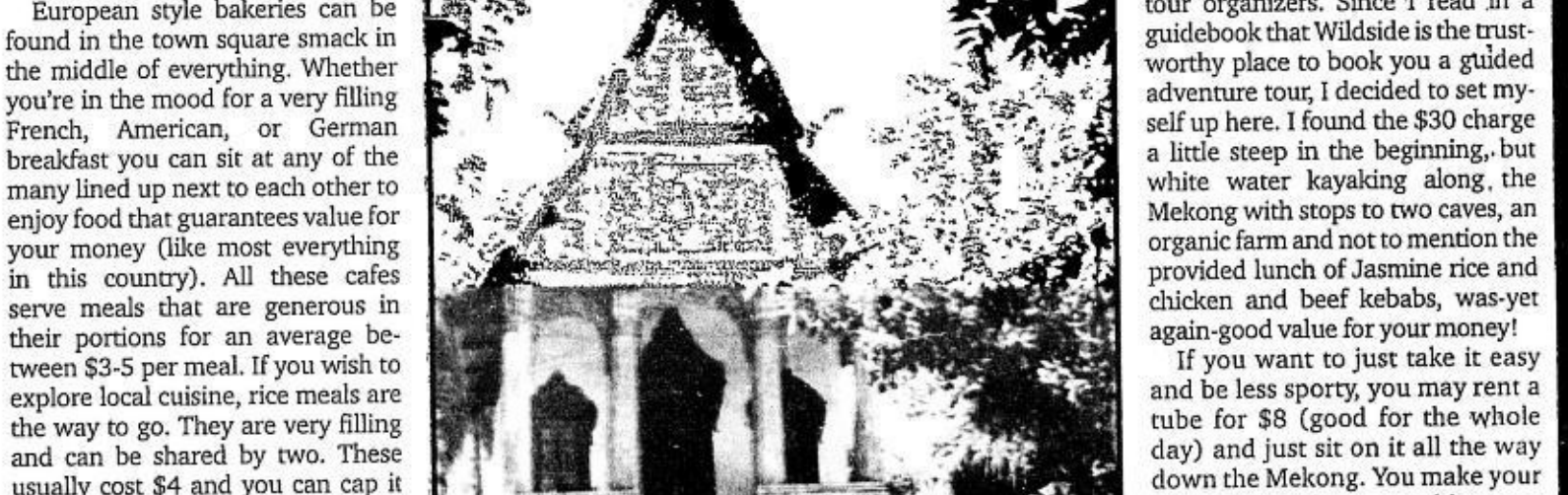
HALF SNAKE, half dragon-like creatures that can be found in ma



A BOATMAN docks along the Mekong River in Vang Vieng.

A PEACEFUL yet haunting piece of architecture you stumble upon going up Phu Si Temple.

A TEMPLE entrance in Luang Prabang.



AN EARLY morning ritual where the Lao people give offering to the monks in exchange of a blessing; a very surreal and overwhelming experience.

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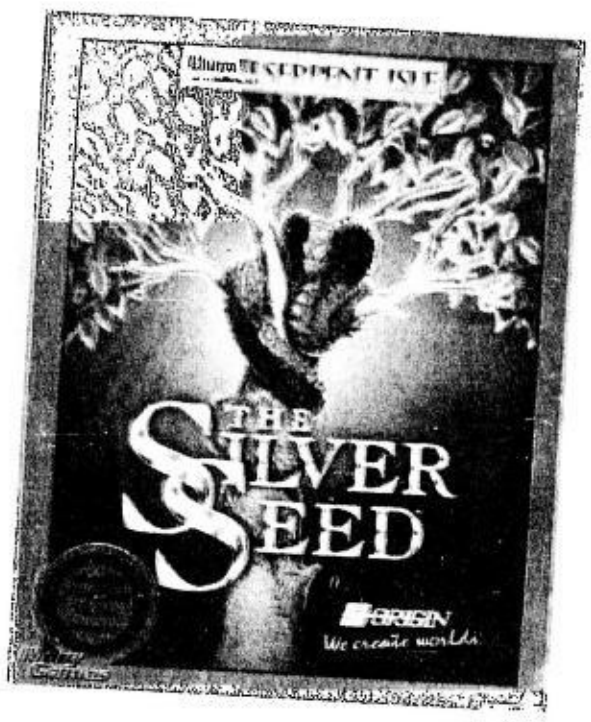


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## Lodging

One of the best places to stay for its value is Pheonphesuth Guesthouse. For $12 a night, this three-story building's basic accommodation of two single beds and private bath are popular even among the businessmen who come and visit. I know this because I would watch them get into their rented Mercedes Benz dressed in their tailored suits as I ate my breakfast at the café across the street. For the more budget-conscious, other guesthouses that have shared baths and a choice of more spacious rooms with either a one queen-sized bed or two single beds are plentiful. These places have a more rustic feel and usually share a common lounge area or balcony compared to the narrow corridors and white walls of Phoenphesuth.

## Food

European style bakeries can be found in the town square smack in the middle of everything. Whether you're in the mood for a very filling French, American, or German breakfast you can sit at any of the many lined up next to each other to enjoy food that guarantees value for your money (like most everything in this country). All these cafes serve meals that are generous in their portions for an average between $3-5 per meal. If you wish to explore local cuisine, rice meals are the way to go. They are very filling and can be shared by two. These usually cost $4 and you can cap it off with a liter-sized bottle of Lao Beer (usually $1). For the more adventurous traveler with equally adventurous taste buds (and stomachs), small carinderia-type restaurants can be found lined up on the street along the Mekong River. The best noodle soup recipes can be found here, and just like those stalls found in the streets of Bangkok, they're not only most authentic they're definitely the cheapest! A heaping bowl of Duck Mami Noodles costs less than a dollar.

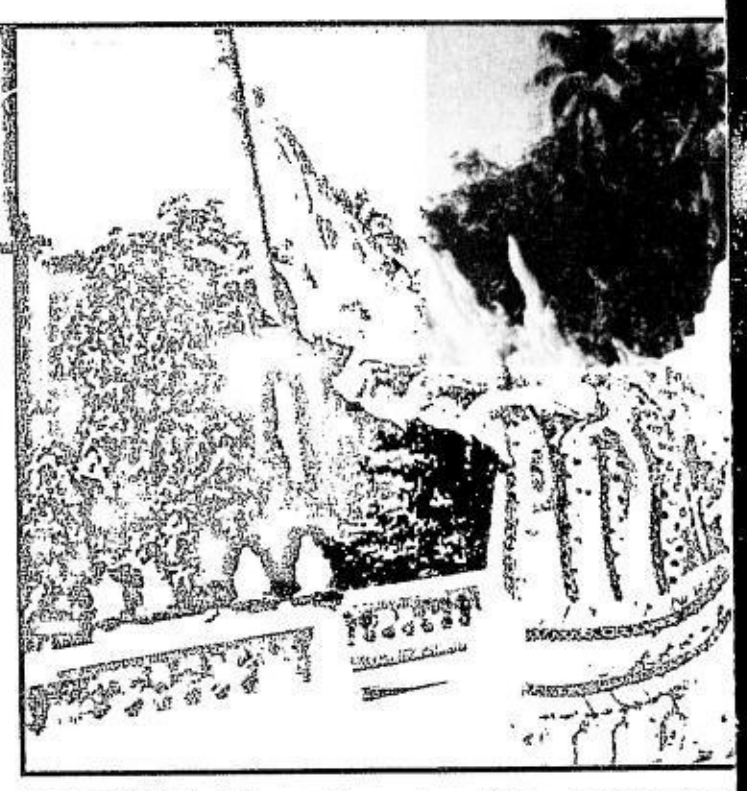
Almost all places of accommodation arrange travel to the North or South of Laos. Since the price difference from doing it on your own and booking with your guesthouse is very minimal, it is advisable to save yourself the hassle and just ask the inn keeper for guaranteed bus or van seats. As earlier said, a choice between the North and South direction is made in Vientienne. In my case, I chose to go up to Vang Vieng where I hear people come together for one common goal: To explore and have worry-free, careless fun. A word of advice: For those who expect to leave on time, odds are you won't, so grab a book and read off the delay.

## Off to the rustic: Vang Vieng

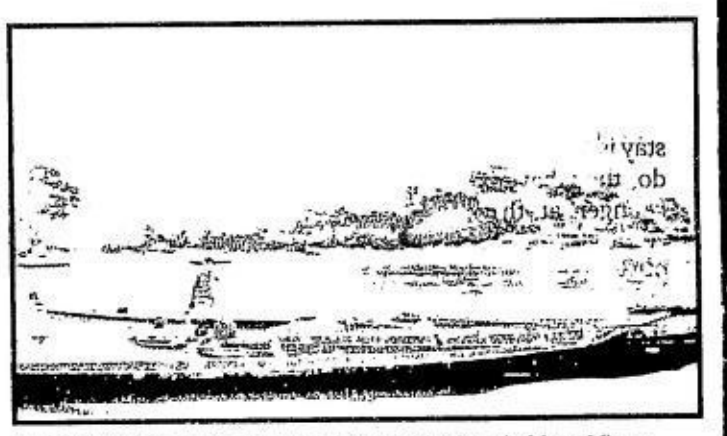
Vang Vieng can be reached from the capital at an approximate five and a half hour travel time. Along the way, you come across tractors hauling hay, men pushing carts of fruit and a lot of rice fields that reflect the sun's orange rain slowly sinking in the horizon.

In Vang Vieng you find no cemented roads. The main road, coincidentally also called Khao San (like in Bangkok), is basically a very wide, orange, dusty dirt road. At the very end of this road you will find the Mekong River while the side streets along the way are where you will stumble upon shops, motor and mountain bikes for rent as well as tour organizers. Since I read in a guidebook that Wildside is the trustworthy place to book you a guided adventure tour, I decided to set myself up here. I found the $30 charge a little steep in the beginning, but white water kayaking along the Mekong with stops to two caves, an organic farm and not to mention the provided lunch of Jasmine rice and chicken and beef kebabs, was-yet again-good value for your money.

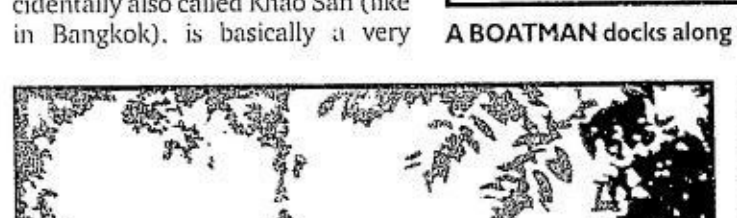
If you want to just take it easy and be less sporty, you may rent a tube for $8 (good for the whole day) and just sit on it all the way down the Mekong. You make your own rules and stops and because you are not paddling, you will be able to enjoy the enormous karsts that sit right beside the river a lot more. For lunch, river restaurants or bars are very close and not far between. Pit stops here are always welcome and most of them provide a rig where you can hold on to a bar that slides down from a steep tower and ends at the river just in time for you to jump in for a refreshing dip! This is free and



HALF SNAKE, half dragon-like creatures that can be found in ma

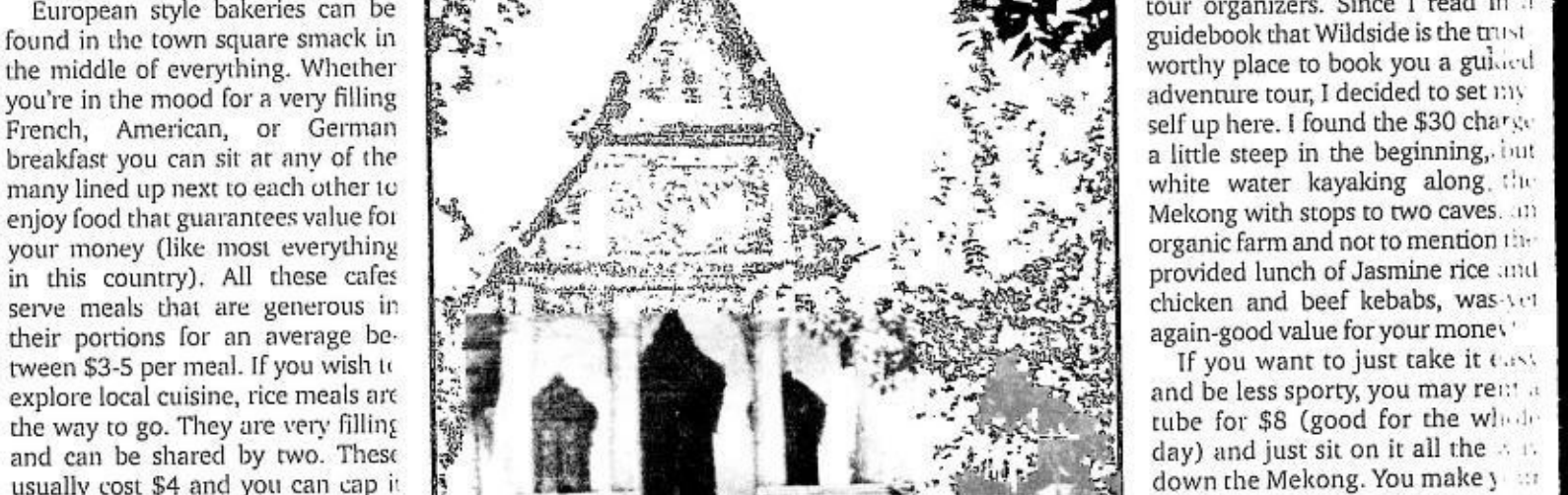


A BOATMAN docks along the Mekong River in Vang Vieng.



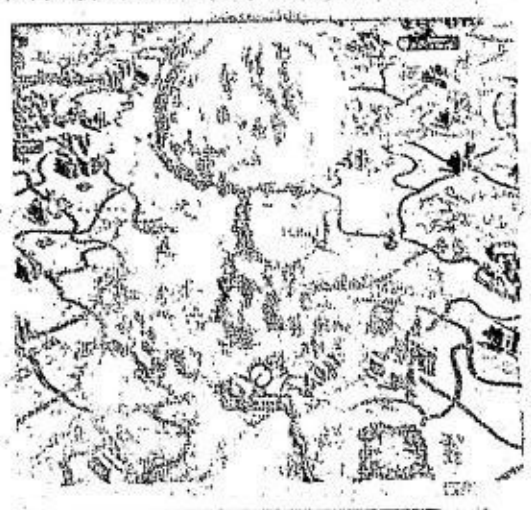
A PEACEFUL yet haunting piece of architecture you stumble upon going up Phu Si Temple.

A TEMPLE entrance in Luang Prabang.

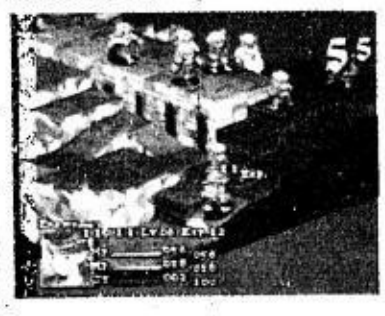


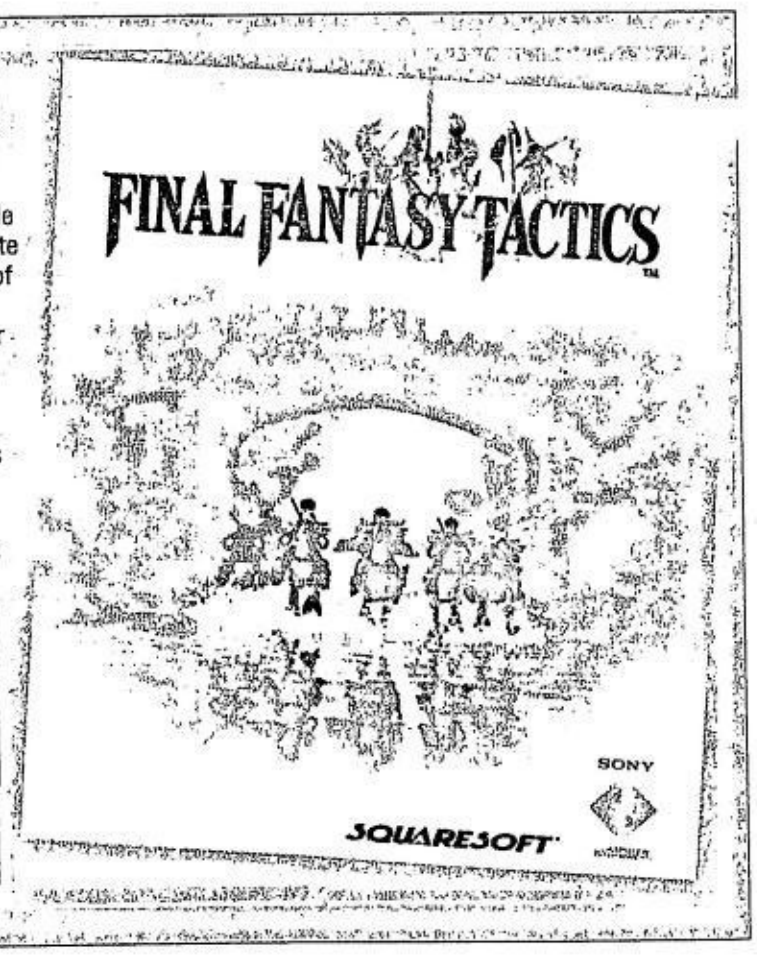
AN EARLY morning ritual where the Lao people give offering to the monks in exchange of a blessing; a very surreal and overwhelming experience.

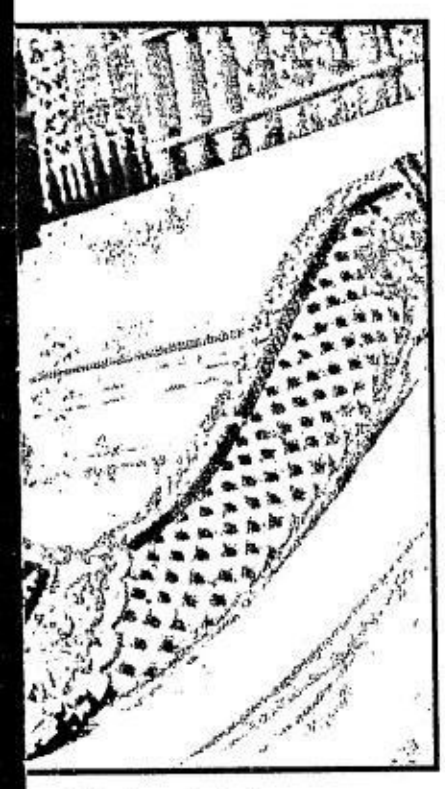
**Civilization 4**—There's no greater feeling than sending Archers and Swordsmen to maraud a poorly defended Indian city or building the Hanging Gardens in your own city. One of the last turn based strategy games, Civilization is a true challenge and can keep you busy trying to develop your own empire and squashing all the others in your path. Unlike the others, this game isn't a classic.
**Longest playing time:** 16 hours
**Useful Thing I Could Have Done in that time:** Prepare a 16-course Laurlat



**Final Fantasy Tactics**—I was never into the RPG game but preferred the battle simulation with tiny cute little anime characters wielding huge swords and whacking at other people or gigantic red birds who can retaliate with a meteor. With a whole gamut of different classes, you can be a ninja throwing balls of fire and daggers or a gun carrying alchemist. Decimate your opponents with a well-placed Lightning bolt as a wizard or steal their armor, weapons or their hearts as a thief, the choices are endless.
**Longest playing time:** 73 hours.
**Useful Thing I Could Have Done in that time: Start my own cult**





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## Lodging

Probably one of the best places to stay is Malany Guesthouse. Not only do they have their own money-changer at the lobby or arrange comfortable (on-time) transfers to other destinations, they also provide spacious, comfortable rooms with their own bathrooms (and bidet!) for only $5 a night! Each floor has a very spacious balcony that always has complimentary coffee and tea. The guesthouse's main gate is closed at late hours and is manned by a security guard. Right outside the gate a crêpe lady sets up at 8 p.m. sharp every night. Right beside her, an Internet café while just two blocks down the road you can book your adventure at Wildside. Malany is perfect.

## Food

All restaurants on the main road have the same style of low tables and recline seats filled with pillows. A good three or four of these restaurants have huge flat screen TVs attached to their main wall where Friends is shown all day, everyday. The usual French-style breakfast is prominent here, of course, but the main courses of local cuisine are superb as well! Seafood is very fresh since it is most likely caught fresh from the river. Some of the more audacious restaurants even offer funky food on their menu that have a variety of creative mixes like Happy Shakes, Magic Mushroom Omelet, and Opium Tea.

## Shopping

If you rent a motor or mountain bike to go around, it is fun to go shopping this way. A mountain bike only costs about $3 for the whole day while a scooter can go for up to $10. A variety of traditional fishing pants in all color combinations possible are sold here for only $2. Antique trinkets and silver jewelry range from $3-10 dollars. Handwoven bags are only $1.50 and silk cloth tailored skirts or tops range from $6-8!

## What's next?

When one first arrives in Vang Vieng you tend to think, what is this place? What did I get myself into? But this place grows on you, and for many they have a tendency to stay longer than intended. This is a great place to meet some cool, carefree people from different parts of the world and just sit back and absorb the liberty of not having a care for anything in the world. Move backward without worries and forget about the paper you have to push when you return to the reality of your job back home.

From Vang Vieng, you can opt to go back to the capital and try for the South side or go further up north to Luang Prabang. Southwards may lead you to Pakse and later on Vietnam or Cambodia while northwards gives you the option of taking a boat to Chiang Mai or hop on a plane back to Bangkok. The upside to going for the latter option of heading back to Bangkok is you can finish your bargain shopping before going home!

## It's good to know:

- Just like Thailand, main streets and roads are marked with Th in Laos.
- Laos uniquely accept three kinds of currency: Dollars, baht and their own, kip. A dollar is about 7,800 kip and THB37.
- Internet cafés are prominent all over the country. Most have competitive prices so it doesn't really matter which one you choose to give you access to cyberspace.
- Lao people always remove their shoes or slippers before entering temples and guesthouses. Respect this custom and strictly follow it.
- September to January is very cold up north and is a good time to go. New Years can get pretty packed though so make sure you book your accommodations early.
- It's always safe to be cautious of strangers, but Lao people tend to be very accommodating and friendly. When a *tuk tuk* driver decides to go out of his way for you, do not be too suspicious, it is really just their custom to be this way.
- Have your *tuk tuk* driver write on a notepad where you're staying so that when you need to get back to it it's easy to show the next *tuk tuk* driver that will take you there where you are staying.
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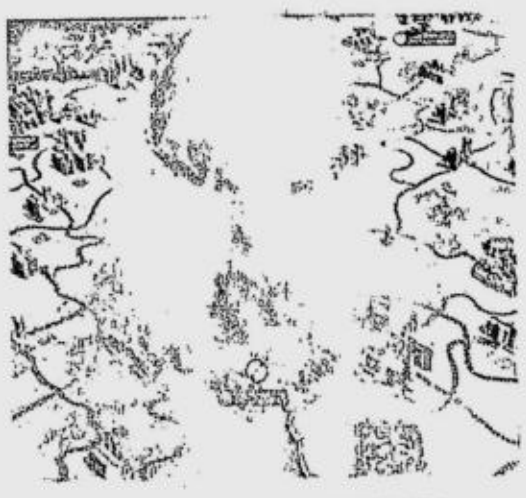

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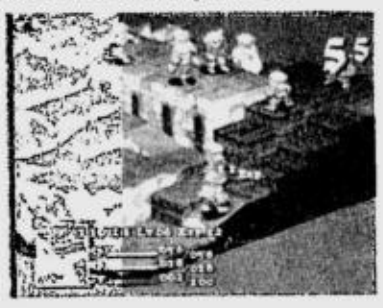
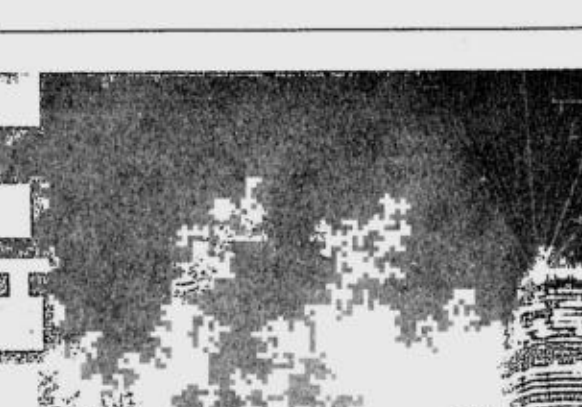


FINAL FANTASY TACTICS™



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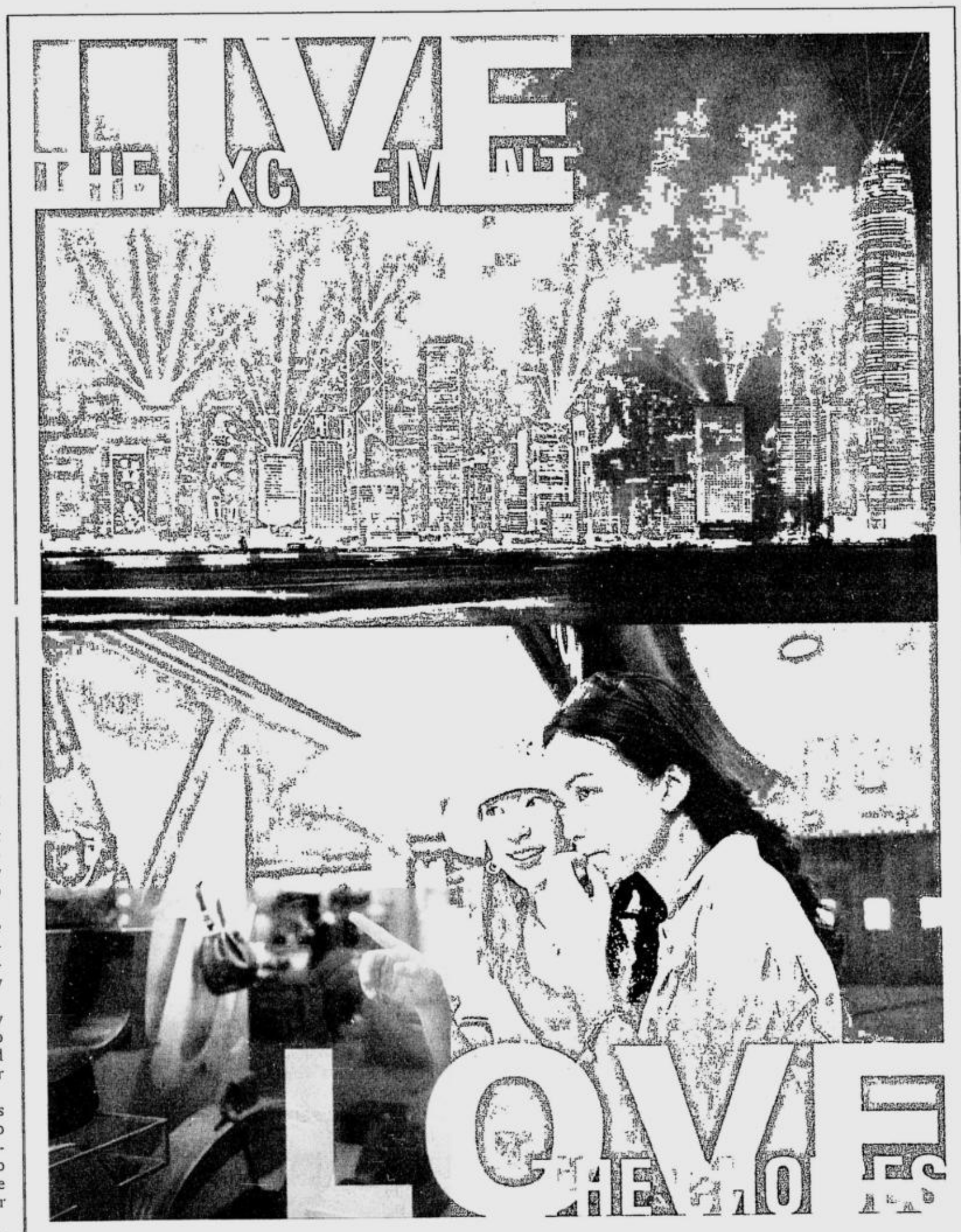

Graphics Design Alden Joshua Cedo

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# A hairy crab indulgence at Tin Hau

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MANILA's illustrious Chinese restaurant Tin Hau presents this season's most coveted delicacy, the Hairy crab. From Oct. 22 to Nov. 18, indulge your gustatory cravings in an array of sumptuous authentic dishes masterfully created by executive Chinese chef Hann Furn Chen and his team, featuring the distinctive hairy crab as the piece de resistance.

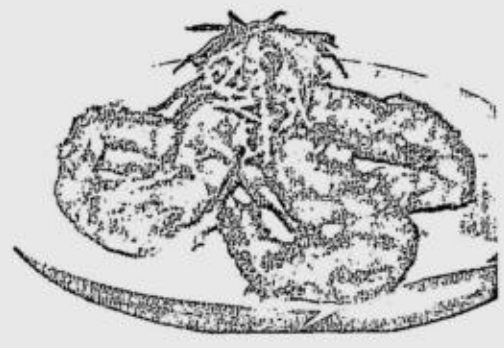
So named because of hair-like growths on their legs and bottom shell, hairy crabs are highly revered in Chinese cuisine as much as abalone and shark's fin and prized for the 'cooling'--yin-- effects on the human body. These freshwater crustaceans abound in China's Yangcheng lake, renowned for the freshness of its water and the richness of food sources available to the crabs. Hairy crabs appear on the finest dining tables in Shanghai, with many a Chinese spending hundreds of yuans just for a taste of the delicate meat on these fat, roe-laden crabs.

An exotic selection of hairy crab dishes served with wild honey ginger tea shall beoffered daily for lunch and dinner in a special a la carte menu including: Steamed hairy crab with shredded ginger; Steamed hairy crab with "Shao Shing" wine and Chinese herbs; Stewed hairy crab with "San Bei" sauce, Taiwanese style; Sautéed hairy crab and rice cake with "Yu Xiang" sauce, Szechuan style, Braised home made spinach tofu with hairy crab meat and shimeiji mushrooms on green vegetables; Sautéed egg white with hairy crab meat and crisp dried scallops set on crisp puff; Deep fried hairy crab claw stuffed with shrimp mouse; among others. Deluxe and Tin Hau hairy crab set menus are also offered at P2,088+++, P2,388, and P2,688+++ per person. For enquiries and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750 8888 extension 2422/2424.

## Carlo's Pizza opens at SM Mall of Asia

NOW YOU CAN ENJOY REAL ITALian feast at the 72-seater Carlo's Pizza's outlet with al fresco dining at the SM Mall of Asia, the country's biggest shopping mall. Located at the ground floor of the north wing of SM MOA facing Macapagal Blvd and near the Hypermart, the latest Carlo's Pizza branch has been attracting hordes of shoppers since its opening recently. According to franchisees Gloria Ramos and Rommel Acosta the response of the public is very encouraging as even celebrities are patronizing the sixth Carlo's Pizza outlet. Aside from pizza, other best-sellers are pasta which has 15 varieties, buffalo wings, soups and salads plus a lot more. Avail of exclusive treats such as free onion rings, potato wedges and iced tea for a minimum purchase at the SM MOA branch for a limited period. For delivery call 915-2812 or 0917-6295547. Other Metro Manila branches are at Moonwalk (776-0103) and BF Homes in Parañaque (662-5789) while the provincial ones are at Tagaytay City (046-4130707), SM Baguio (074-6197791) and Camp John Hay (074-6197791). Photo shows franchisees Rommel Acosta and Gloria Ramos.

## Chef Lee's Specials at Manila Pavilion Hotel



CHEF LEE'S SIGNATure dishes are on the menu once again! And with this month's Chef Lee Specials, Manila Pavilion Hotel brings back the original and unique culinary creations of Cantonese-Malaysian flavors for which Peony Garden is known for.

Popular chef Lee dishes to look forward to this month: Kwei Lam Prawn, Prawn with Yellow Wine in Hot Pot, Baked Prawn with Garlic, Prawn Country Style, Deep-fried Prawn Tail with Mashed Taro and Tai Shan Prawn.

Servings are meant for sharing and they come in small, medium and large sizes. Peony Garden is open daily. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. while dinner is at 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

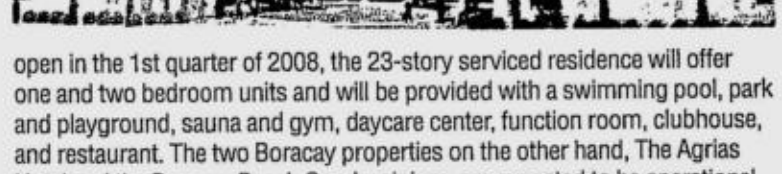
You may choose among the three private rooms for that particular occasion: Peach - for a group of 10 persons, Lotus - for a group of 12 and Sunflower - for a group of 15 persons.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2503 and 2303.

## Quantum Hotels and Resorts' prestigious line up of serviced residences

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2000, QUANTUM HOTELS AND RESORTS HAS been managing three serviced apartments in the Makati Central Business District area (BSA Tower, BSA Suites, and Perla Mansion) and one high-end serviced residence located in the Ortigas Center Business District (The Malayan Plaza). "We are proud to announce that all these properties are experiencing an average occupancy rate of 80 percent to 90 percent," said John Cole, president of Quantum Hotels and Resorts, which manages all these properties and very soon, in Quezon City and Boracay. He added that Quantum Hotels and Resorts recently inked three more management contracts for one property in Quezon City, and two in Boracay in Aklan.

Owned and developed by 24K Development and Construction Corp, Torre Venezia is located at the corner of Timog Avenue and Scout Santiago Street in Quezon City. Expected to

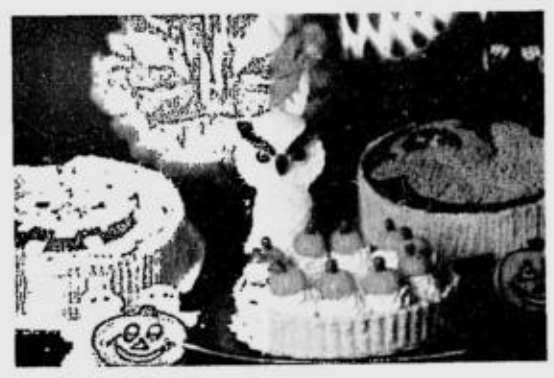


open in the 1st quarter of 2008, the 23-story serviced residence will offer one and two bedroom units and will be provided with a swimming pool, park and playground, sauna and gym, daycare center, function room, clubhouse, and restaurant. The two Boracay properties on the other hand, The Agrias Hotel and the Boracay Beach Condominium, are expected to be operational by 2008 and 2009, respectively. For more information call 864-0941 to 43 or log on to www.quantumsuites.com or e-mail sales@quantumsuites.com.

## Weekend Halloween treat from Richmonde Hotel

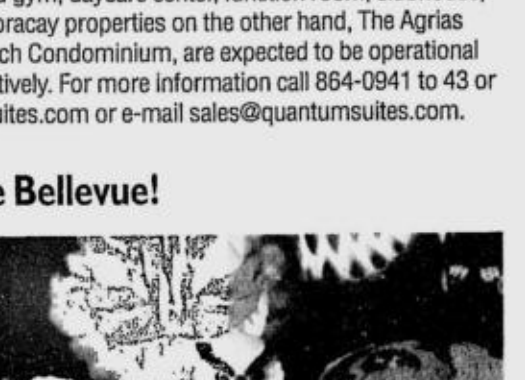
THE RICHMONDE Hotel casts a magical spell of sheer pleasure and enchantment with its very affordable rates this Halloween. Stay for two nights and get the third night free when you check in from Oct. 26 to Nov. 4. Rates go for as low as P7,000net for a Deluxe Room, P8,000net for a Junior Suite, P10,000net for a One-Bedroom Suite and P13,000net for a Two-Bedroom Suite. The 3rd night (not inclusive of breakfast) can even be converted to a gift certificate which you can use until Dec. 31. Another delightful option is to stay overnight at these thrilling discounts: P3,500net for a Deluxe Room and P4,000net for a Junior Suite. All rates are inclusive of daily delectable breakfast buffet feast at the Grill for two persons for Deluxe Room, Junior and One-Bedroom Suite bookings and for three persons for Two-Bedroom Suites, except for the third night. Guests can likewise enjoy complimentary use of the Health Club facilities, such as the gym, sauna and heated indoor pool during their stay. This promo is valid only for local residents and expatriates with valid ACR. For your inquiries and reservations, call 638-7777 or call Room Reservations direct at 689-8411/689-8412. The Richmonde Hotel is located at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

## Belle-Boo! at the Bellevue!



PUT ON YOUR costumes and get your goodie bags ready to enjoy a one-of-a-kind celebration with the whole family this Halloween at the Bellevue's luxurious Laguna Room. Have brunch and dine at the hotel's main dining outlet Café d'Asie and have your fill of a special Halloween menu exclusively prepared by the Bellevue's culinary geniuses. Experience Mad Science and join the Bellevue in sparking imaginative learning for all ages on Oct. 28. For only P300 and P500, discover Halloween and be treated to an afternoon of wonder, merriment and entertainment for the whole family as trick or treating is taken to a whole new level. With fun-filled games, magic shows, exclusive giveaways and a costume contest for the kids, it is a celebration not to be missed! For inquiries, call 771-8181.

## Café Jeepney serves up Filipino-Spanish recipes



TREASURED FILIPINO-Spanish recipes from prominent illustrado families in the country will be re-created at InterContinental Manila's Café Jeepney from Oct. 12 to 26. These culinary refinements of a bygone era will be part of the restaurant's daily lunch and dinner buffets.

Among the traditional dishes that figure in the menu are Arroz a la Cubana, Arroz Negro, Mechado de Elena, Menudo de Familia and even home-made Mantecado ice cream. The buffet is priced at P990++ per person. The lunch buffet is available from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. while the dinner buffet is served from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Adjacent to Café Jeepney is the Jeepney Deli Shop where guests can purchase cakes, breads and pastries fresh from pastry chef Rolando Macatangay's kitchen.

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# SATURDAY Special

*Editor* **Nestor U. Torre** • *Assistant Editor* **Rito P. Asilo**

**Text us your feedback:** inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

MESSING. Topbills Hallmark's saucy new series.

'THE STARTER WIFE'

# Sly, stylish 'dramedy' about divorce, Hollywood-style

**By Nestor U. Torre**

THE HALLMARK CHANNEL HAS A HOT, new show in "The Starter Wife," which premieres on Sunday, Oct. 21, at 9 p.m. We caught the first two episodes in preview last week and can share that the new series starring Debra Messing is a sly, stylish and sensitive "dramedy" about divorce, Hollywood-style.

Part of the show's fascination is its insider's view of a world quite unlike our own, where the stakes for success are much higher, temptation is as close as that panting starlet just around the corner, and love and marriage are compromised by the exigencies of high-flying show biz careers.

## Female protagonist

Surprisingly, the show focuses, not on a big and powerful star, but on an even more popular producer, who's married to the series' hapless female protagonist. Thus does the series reveal the true nature of Hollywood economics and politics, which regard even non-work factors as money in the bank.

For quite a number of years, Messing's character has been enjoying the perks of her producer-husband's lofty status. One dismal day, however, he asks her for a divorce—just like that. No, he swears, no hot, pneumatic starlet is involved. He just wants out.

The emotional and psychological effects of that crushing rejection are traumatic enough, but what really shocks Messing's character (and viewers, as well) are the unexpected aftershocks that follow: The "divorce widow" has lost, not just a husband, but also all of the perks that went with being married to him—exclusive club memberships, charge accounts, even some of her "close" friends, who stay away from her to remain in the good graces of her all-powerful ex-hubby.

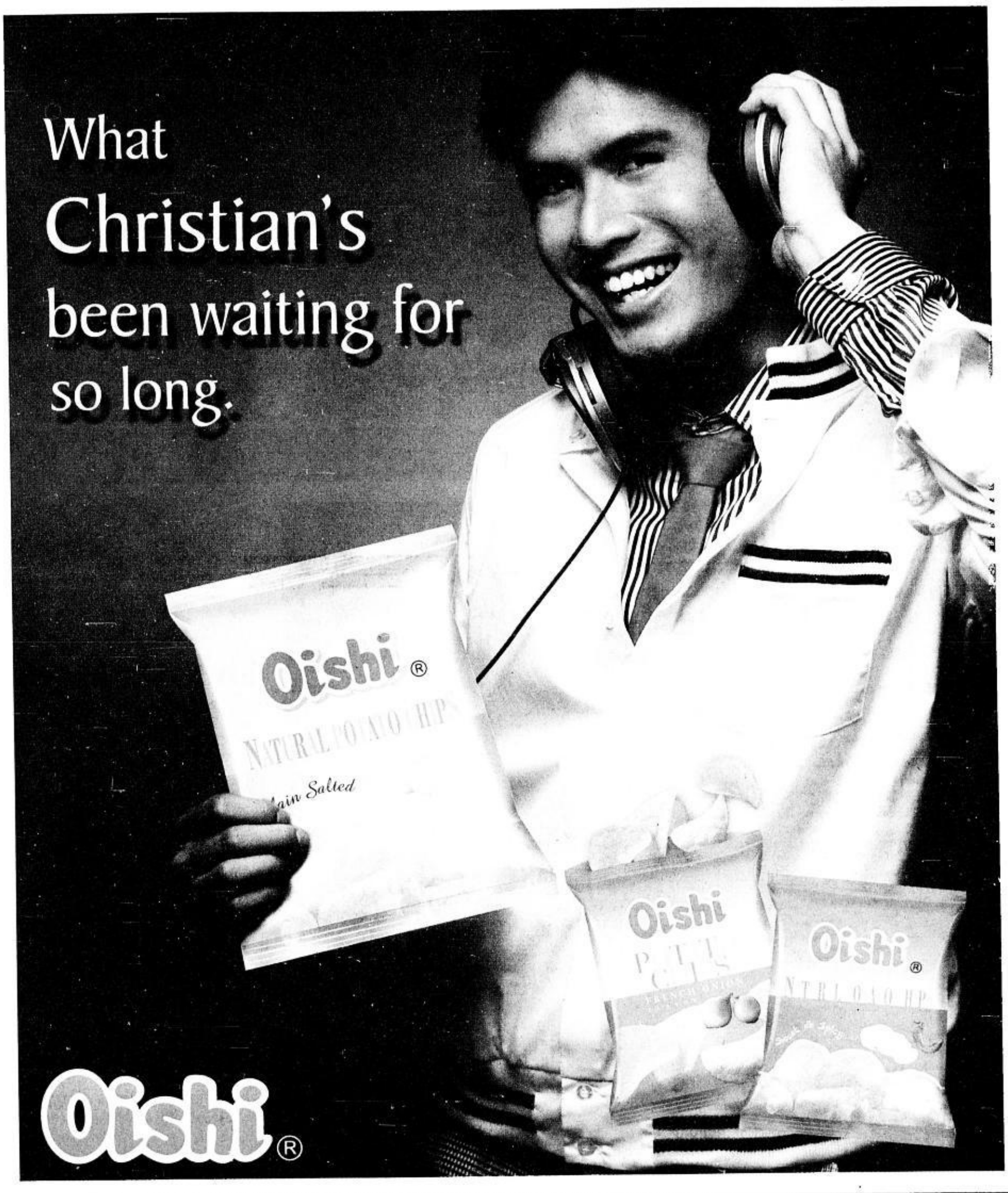
As our now pathetic protagonist sinks deeper into divorce-induced depression, she tries to get back at her faithless husband by flirting with a couple of men. Alas, one of them turns out to be even more depressed than she is, so she pins her hopes on her remaining prospect, who we can hope will turn out to be good for her as the series progresses.

## Upbeat moments

She'll need all of the upbeat moments she can get, because her husband doesn't seem to run out of ways to suck the wind out of her sails. For one, it is belatedly revealed that there *is* a panting starlet wriggling under his sheets, and he stops at nothing to finance her speedy ascent to stardom.

What is our poor, much-put-upon protagonist to do? As the series unfolds, we suspect that it'll end up telling her—and us—not to depend on another person and all the perks attached to him or her—but to look for and find genuine happiness on our own terms.

The fact that this new morality tale is being told in and about Hollywood makes the "message" entertaining as well as instructive. We trust that this jackpot combination of sense and serendipity will serve the new show in good stead every Sunday until mid-November.

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...ge promos and highlights

# Bernardo Bernardo dishes about living in 'da' USA

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

*Ruben V. Nepales*

'I just roll with the punches when they come'

BERNARDO. "No guarantees, no regrets."

LOS ANGELES—IN THIS SECOND PART OF our article on Bernardo Bernardo, he talks about his new life in the US, his fellow cast members in the acclaimed play, "The Romance of Magno Rubio," and the "Desperate Housewives" issue.

Now based in Northern California, BB returns to LA, where he first lived when he emigrated from the Philippines, to reprise the role of Prudencio in "Magno Rubio." Ma-Yi's award-winning play, directed by Loy Arcenas, kicks off the theater season at the newly-renovated Los Angeles Theatre Center from Oct. 25 to 28.

The actor joins Paolo Montalban, Ramon de Ocampo and Arthur Acuña, who play the *manongs* who share Magno's (Jojo Gonzalez) bunkhouse and his longing for love. Visit www.thenewlatc.com.

## Game

When we asked BB if he regrets leaving the Philippines, the quotable actor replied: "You hold the cards and play the game. There are no guarantees, no regrets. I just roll with the punches when they do come—and enjoy the scenery. I've not soured on life, but sometimes, I feel I've made so much lemonade that I could open a concession at Costco (a popular US warehouse store)!" Excerpts from our interview *via* e-mail:

**What are your insights from living "along *da riles*" on Dolphy's TV sitcom to living in "*da* United States of *Amerika*"?**

It's just like living "along *Da Riles*." When you're poor in America, you're poor but probably better dressed, because of Ross Dress for Less (a discount store) or the Salvation Army. In *da Pilipins*, it's either Eloy's or *ukay-ukay*. Here, the credit card is the Great Equalizer. In the Philippines, it's 5-6! In America, the Great Escape Clause is known as Bankruptcy. In *da Pilipins*, it's Migrating to the US. It's all the same.

**When you tell people you meet for the first time that your name is Bernardo Bernardo, do they think you're pulling their collective leg?**

You've heard it said: "So nice, they named him twice." It's not always the case: There's pedophile Humbert Humbert from Nabokov's "Lolita," if you're of literary bent. Or, Robert Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, if you're a History Channel addict. Otherwise, you're a relative novelty.

I'm not the only Bernardo Bernardo in the world. I had difficulty getting my e-mail address and NBI Clearance because of that. I do have a relative, a nephew named Santos Santos, whose pediatrician was Dr. Jose Jose. One of my Speech teachers in LA was named Mina E. Mina.

## Cast members

**Share some good dish on your fellow cast members in "The Romance of Magno Rubio."**

Sharing a dressing room with three handsome and talented actors can get a bit distracting. Picture three gorgeous hunks in various stages of undress—seeing them walking around can be very unsettling!

Happily, I can just turn my gaze on fellow senior actor, Jojo Gonzalez. He keeps me grounded.

**In which performance were you most moved by the audience's reaction?**

The most moving reactions were from the talkbacks in Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre, where the cast and creative staff were engaged in Q & A's after the show.

Audience members talked about the experiences of their grandparents as immigrant farmers in America. They were so proud of the play, of how brave it was to show the dark past of Fil-Am history in the US, and how happy they were to hear our voice, songs and stories showcased in mainstream, multiethnic American theater.

## Five characters

**Which of the five characters in the play do you identify with?**

I identify with all five! I relate to Atoy's brash immaturity and impish playfulness. There's still a little boy in me who refuses to grow up—one that laughs and shrugs off pain. Nick reflects my love for learning and sense of compassion. Claro is impulsive, ambitious, manipulative, and has an off-kilter sense of humor.

As for Magno's honesty, simplicity, romantic illusions, desperation and bounce-ability—why should I lie? As they say, "There's no fool like an old fool." —Which brings us to wizened Prudencio: He's older, loving and more understanding. He's homesick, hard-working, hopeful, and willing to sacrifice.

BERNARDO/ G3

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2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10
R-18
THE SEEKER
1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
GP
STARDUST
2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
G
MR. WOODCOCK
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PG-13

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| STARDUST G 12:00,2:35,5:10, 7:45,10:20 | MR.WOODCOCK PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20 | THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30 |

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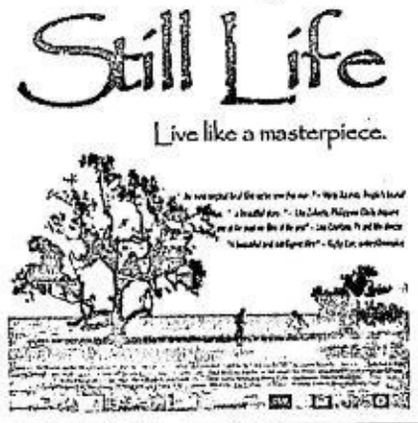

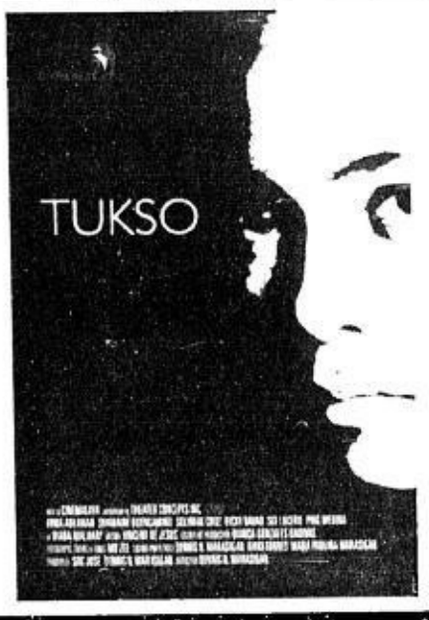


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Dead Man's Hand 4:00 pm
Closely Watched Trains 6:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 8:00 pm

October 20 (Saturday)
Kalya 12:00 pm
Leap 2:15 pm
FC Virus 4:15 pm
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 6:30 pm
La Mome 8:30 pm

October 21 (Sunday)
The Leopard 12:00 pm
Summer in Berlin 3:30 pm
Just Sex & Nothing Else 6:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 8:15 pm
You am I 9:20 pm

October 22 (Monday)
Facing Windows 12:00 pm
You am I 2:45 pm
Karakter 4:45 pm
Live of Others 7:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 10:00 pm

October 23 (Tuesday)
Meeting the Enemy 12:00 pm
Carol's Journey 2:30 pm
Jalla! Jalla! 4:45 pm
Taming of the Shrew 7:45 pm
Shooting Dogs 10:00 pm

October 24 (Wednesday)
Closely Watched Trains 12:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 2:00 pm
The Kiss 5:30 pm
Summer with the Ghost 7:45 pm
Dead Man's Hand 9:40 pm

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'INTO THE WOODS'

# Topnotch cast brings well-loved fairy tales to musical life

By Rito P. Asilo

IF YOU VISIT THE NEW VOICE Company's Actors Studio these days, you'll feel excitement in the air as the theater company gears up for its 13th anniversary offering, the Stephen Sondheim musical, "Into the Woods," which runs all Fridays and Saturdays from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8 at the Music Museum. (Call 896-5497)

Known for its edgy plays ("The Vagina Monologues," "Frozen") and re-imagined musicals ("Cabaret," "Aspects of Love"), New Voice gathers an exciting cast that represents a cross-section of some of the local theater industry's best talents.

**EXCEPTIONAL company includes (from top, left) Red Concepcion, Mads Nicolas, John Mulhall, Jamie Wilson, Maita Ponce and Amiel Mendoza; (middle row, from left) Tommy Abuel, Juno Henares, Michael Williams, Lynn Sherman, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Cathy Azanza, and (bottom, from left) Joaqui Valdez, Mika Margolles, Angela Padilla, Crisel Consunji and Missy Maramara.**

## Four ingredients

They bring well-loved characters from popular fairy tales like "Cinderella," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Rapunzel" to scorching life.

The musical follows the Baker and his Wife (played by Michael Williams and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo) as they go into the woods to search for four ingredients (Little Red's cape, Jack's white cow, Rapunzel's yellow hair and Cinderella's golden slippers) for a potion to break a Witch's curse—or they will never have a child!

Williams returns to New Voice in the company of other NVC regulars: Juno Henares (Wicked Stepmother), Jamie Wilson (who plays the dual role of Cinderella's Prince and the Wolf), John Mulhall (Rapunzel's Prince), Madeleine Nicolas (Jack's Mom) and Lynn Sherman, who's cast in the pivotal role of the Witch.

Executive producers Monique Wilson and Rossana Abueva are doubly excited to welcome the beautiful Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, who makes her auspicious New Voice debut in the Sondheim musical, as well as acclaimed actor, Tommy Abuel (Mysterious Man), who's not just known for award-winning roles in film classics like "Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" and "Itim," but also for his countless theatrical triumphs.

Even the production's younger characters are portrayed by topnotch performers like Cathy Azanza (Cinderella), Joaqui Valdez (Jack), Angela Padilla (Rapunzel), Missy Maramara (Narrator), Julia Abueva and Crisel Consunji (alternating as Little Red Riding Hood), Mika Margolles and Maita Ponce (as Wicked Stepsisters, Florinda and Lucinda), Red Concepcion (the Prince's Steward), Mica Pineda (Little Red's Granny), Amiel Mendoza (Cinderella's Father), Geraldine Tan and China Tapia.

Together, these talented actors boldly tell the story of a group of people who wish for their respective "happily ever afters"—only to learn that life is no fairy tale, after all!

As their characters ponder the impact of their actions and the consequences of their choices, they realize that there's more to life than a storybook ending! In fact, some characters in the story learn this cautionary lesson the hard way!

## Harsher aspects

Soon, they are exposed to the harsher aspects of living and loving. But, growing up doesn't have to be a hopelessly bleak thing—we learn from the bad decisions we make, and hope that they make us better and stronger persons!

We also tend to think in black and white, but the meaningful lyrics of one of the musical's best songs, "No One is Alone," carry a timeless reminder: "People make mistakes, terrible mistakes/ Witches can be right, giants can be good..."

# Bernardo . . .

From page G2

The quintessential *manong*!

**You've also done plays in Alaska. What was that experience like?**

In 2004, Paolo, Melody Butiu, Eileen Rivera and I went to Juneau, Alaska to do Chay Yew's "The Long Season" for Perseverance Theatre, under the direction of Public Theatre's Peter DuBois.

## Theater

Because of the Alaskan canneries, Juneau has a large Filipino population, most of whom don't go to the theater. I wanted to reach out to that community, but even though we were doing a musical about *Pinoys*, they were still quiet and not engaged!

I decided to do a comedy-musical, Ghetto Glam gig. I was, in a sense, making Juneau a part of what I fondly call my *Adobo* Circuit. Happily, it was well-received.

PJ Paparelli, artistic director of Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, wrote: "After that, the response from the community was overwhelming. Large dinners were being thrown for the cast members. Filipinos auditioned for parts in the play. And most impressive, hundreds of Filipinos came to the theater, most of them for the first time!

"In addition to 'The Long Season,' Bernardo and three local Filipinos conceptualized a documentary-style play on the history of Filipinos in Juneau. 'Voyage' explored the stories of 19 Filipino-Americans. In two months, Perseverance became the center of Filipino-American Theatre!"

**Now you're back in the academe?**

Currently, I teach Intermediate Tagalog at the University of San Francisco. USF is the only American university that offers a degree major in Philippine Studies. On the side, I teach Musical Theater to children and adults at the Westlake School for the Performing Arts in Daly City.

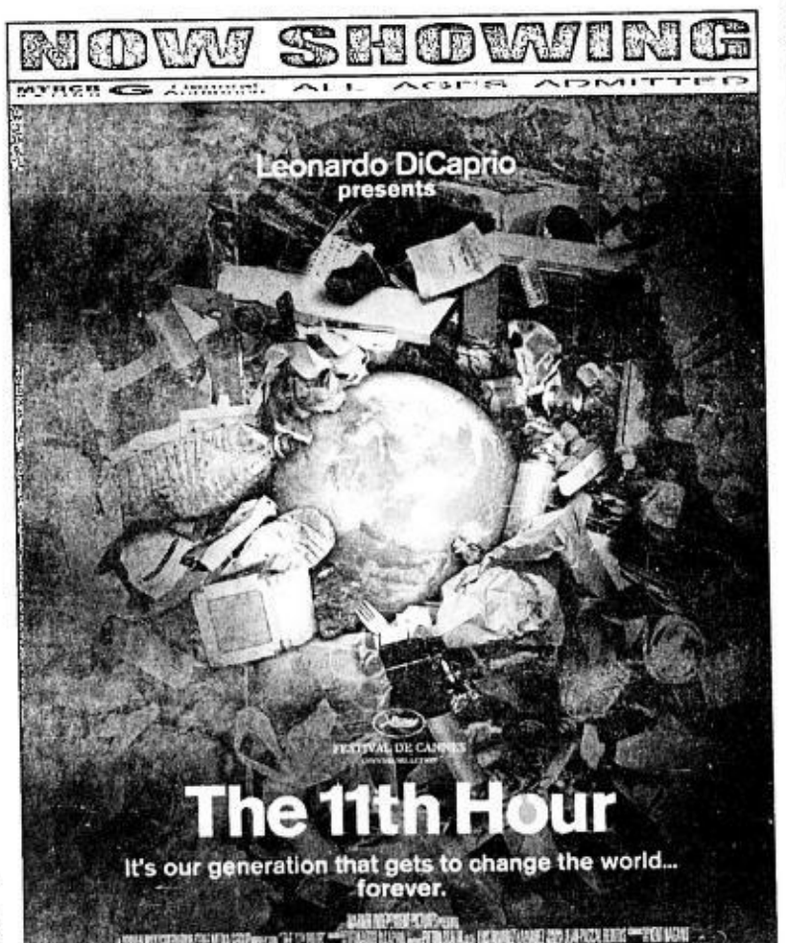
## Issue

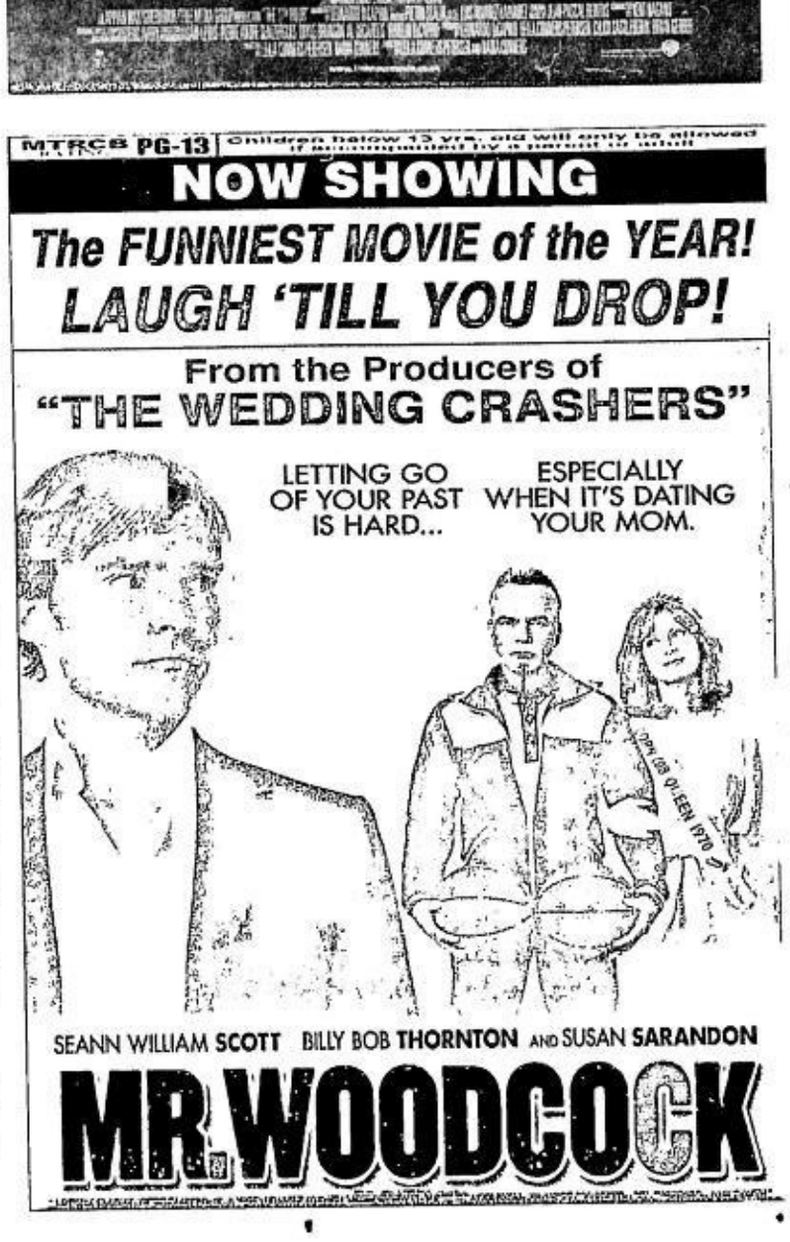
**What's your take on the "Desperate Housewives" issue?**

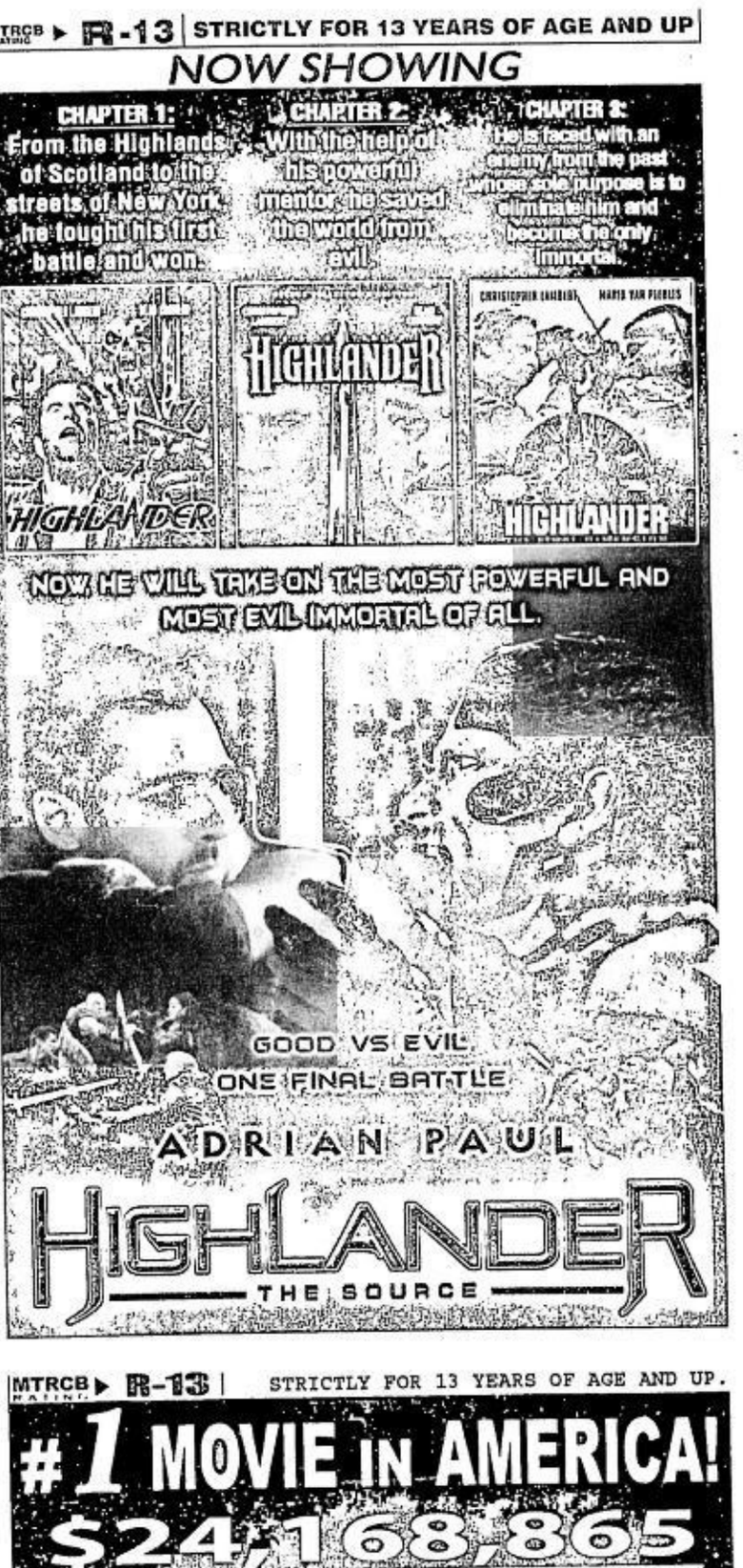
In a country laboring to be politically correct, it's amazing that, in an attempt to be witty, a major primetime TV show would find it so easy to denigrate an entire ethnic minority!

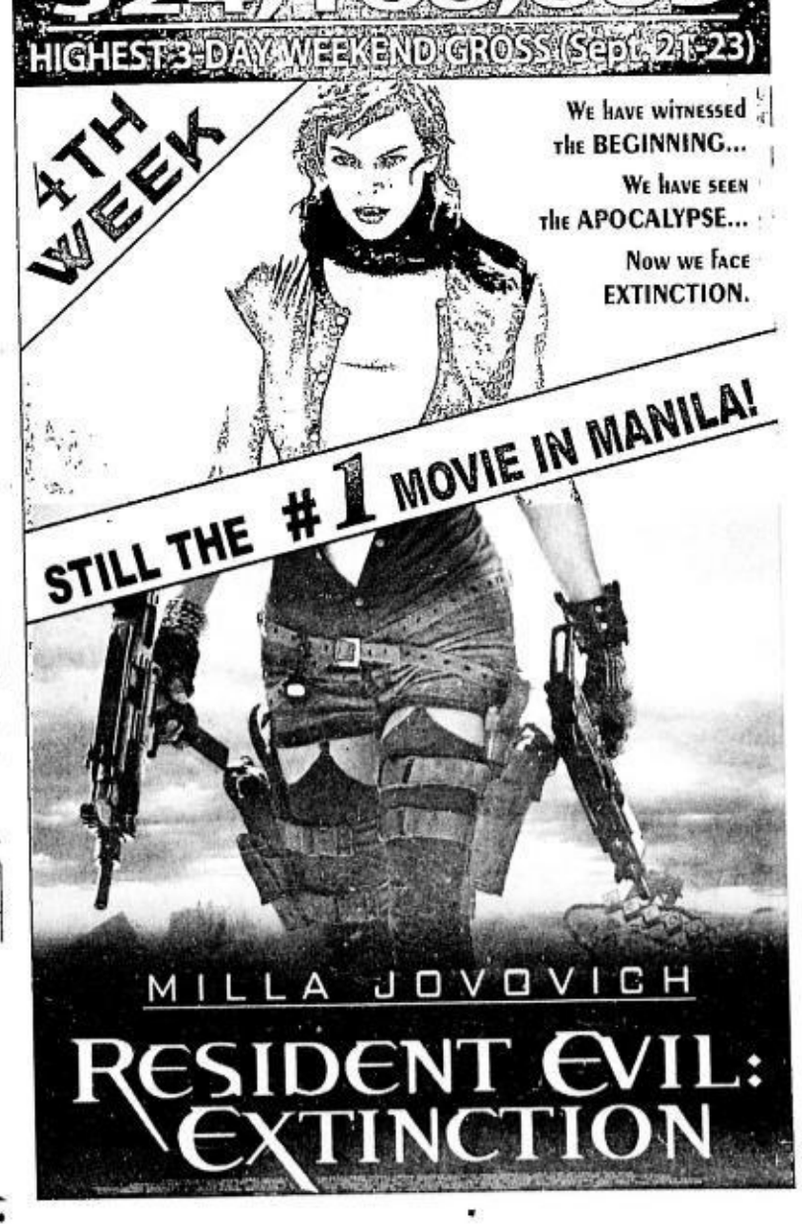
I'm glad Filipino-Americans have finally decided to be heard. If the rallying cry for protests, suits and boycotts that reverberated around the world is any indication, Fil-Ams are tired of being voiceless and invisible! And, I'm happy that the voice of reason is apparently prevailing.

*E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.*



# Billy Crawford wins hearts in Big Dome concert

By Jocelyn Valle

SURE, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT HOW BILLY Crawford has captured the hearts of pop music aficionados in Europe, and won awards for his songs and videos in other parts of the globe. But, we didn't expect to be thoroughly entertained by this gifted and passionate performing artist.

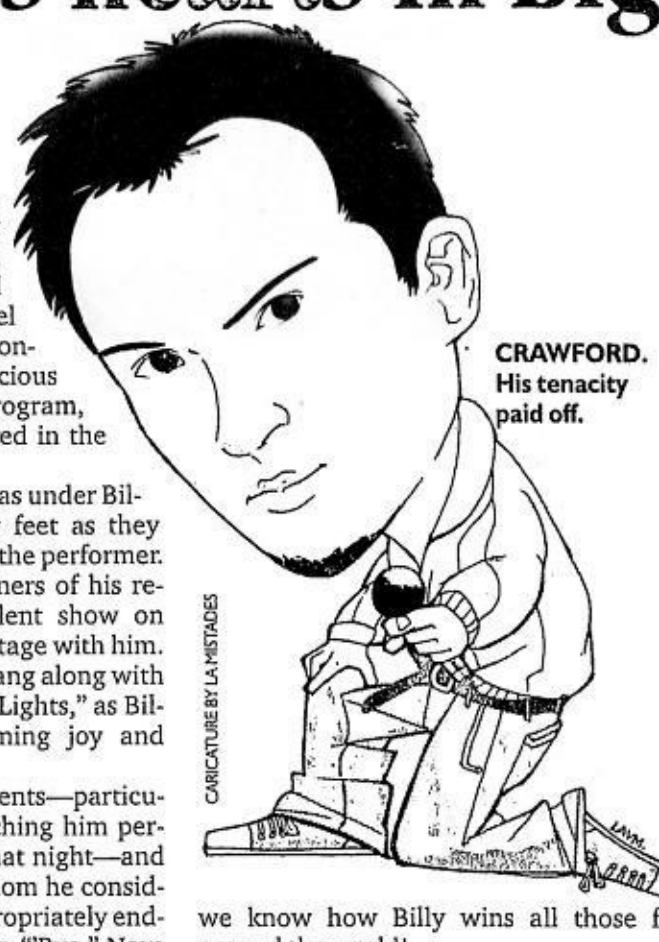
This was particularly evident during the first few numbers of Crawford's recent Araneta Coliseum gig, "It's Time," held last week. When the audience showed little appreciation for his less popular tunes, Billy refused to let this dampen his spirits, so he showed even greater enthusiasm in the cowboy number—a tribute to his Texan father. He also made sure that Jay-R and Karylle would likewise shine in his duets with them.

## Surge of energy

His tenacity finally paid off when Kris Lawrence joined him for their version of Ne-Yo's "So Sick." Suddenly, the crowd came alive, showering the duo with a hearty applause. Sensing the surge of energy, Billy burst into a medley of Earth, Wind and Fire hits and topped them with a string of Michael Jackson songs as a video montage of his days as a precocious tyke on the '80s teen program, "That's Entertainment," played in the background.

Thereafter, the audience was under Billy's spell. They got to their feet as they clapped and sang along with the performer. In another number, the winners of his recently concluded reality talent show on GMA-7, "Move," shared the stage with him. For the finale, the audience sang along with his international hit, "Bright Lights," as Billy beamed with overwhelming joy and pride.

He acknowledged his parents—particularly his dad, who was watching him perform live for the first time that night—and mentor German Moreno, whom he considers his second father. He appropriately ended the evening with the song, "'Bye." Now, we know how Billy wins all those fans around the world!



CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

**CRAWFORD. His tenacity paid off.**

# Book-based sci-fi is far from fantastic

By Noelani Torre

FANTASIES, BY THEIR VERY DEFINITION, are supposed to take you away from all that is dull and ordinary—hence, the use of magical, mythical and supernatural elements. In a Hollywood movie, that means a lot of special effects and suitably fantastical music.

The tweener-aimed fantasy film, "The Seeker: The Dark is Rising," has the visual trickery, a musical score that kicks in at all the right moments, and the requisite good and bad guys to move the story along. Only rarely throughout the movie, however, will you get that wondrous, transported-away feeling that's the mark of a good fantasy.

## Series

This isn't very good news for fans of Susan Cooper's well-loved Newberry Honor-winning book, the second in a five-book series called "The Dark is Rising." Then again, since those books were first published in the '60s and '70s, their fans would all be grown-up by now—and some of them would possibly opt not to watch a movie that hasn't remained true to the original material.

Younger viewers will probably be more forgiving. Those who aren't easily diverted by visual spectacles, however, will find it less fulfilling. Directed by David L. Cunningham, "The Seeker" centers around a 14-year-old American boy, Will Stanton (Alexander Ludwig), who lives in a quainter than quaint English village, together with his large family.

Since this is a fantasy, he is, of course, no ordinary boy. In fact, he turns out to be a warrior, the last of a group called the Old Ones, who are the guardians of The Light. These warriors constantly battle the agents of The Dark. It's all very black and white, as you can see. If The Light wins, the world will be saved, but if The Dark prevails, then the world will be lost forever.

Will, being adolescent and burdened with cocky older brothers, has other things to worry about—such as how to make himself noticed and how to talk to a girl he's got a crush on.

Meanwhile, the Old Ones—made up of Merriman Lyon (Ian McShane), Miss Greythorne (Frances Conroy), Dawson (James Cosmo) and Old George (Jim Piddock)—are continually exhorting him to find the Signs (which they need to defeat The Dark, represented by Christopher Eccleston) which only he, being the Seeker, can find.

## Action scenes

Throughout the movie, Will travels across time to find the Signs. A number of Light vs. Dark scenes are interspersed here and there. Even during action scenes, however, the film remains curiously inert.

The camera moves around a lot—sometimes, dizzyingly so—but the movie itself doesn't get off the ground. The world ends in five days, but it doesn't feel like an urgent matter!

The acting is competent enough, though the actors are more often than not made to talk when they should be made to actually *do* something.

# *Dina Merrill represented America's classy, homegrown blonde beauties*

By Behn Cervantes

IN THE MID-'50S, HOLLYwood was swamped with classy dames imported from Europe. They were led by the iconic Audrey Hepburn. Then, the world's film capital launched Grace Kelly, a brick heiress from Philadelphia.

Hollywood searched high and low for classy, blonde beauties to offset the likes of Marilyn Monroe and Mamie Van Doren. France had its own version of the sexy blonde in Brigitte Bardot. From England came such classic beauties like Dana Wynter and Dawn Adams.

Tinseltown's preference for blondes produced the likes of Dina Merrill, the tall and fashionable daughter of Edward F. Merrill. She represented America's classy, homegrown blonde beauties—she was rich, beautiful and genteel.

## Heiress

Merrill wanted more than just her father's mansions—she longed for an acting career, much to the chagrin of her well-heeled parents! The heiress worked on her craft by enrolling in the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She even suspended her dreams to marry and raise children.

She appeared in films like "True Color" and "Butterfield 8" (the movie that gave Elizabeth Taylor her first Best Actress Oscar trophy) and acted on Broadway ("Angel Street," "On Your Toes").

In the '60s, she married Cliff Robertson, who won an Oscar for portraying a mentally-challenged man in "Charly," an award credited to Dina's persuasive skills, as she was alleged to have campaigned actively for her husband. Interestingly, the actor won the coveted award while he was filming "Too Late the Hero" with Michael Caine in the Philippines.

**MERRILL. Also possessed executive and entrepreneurial skills.**

## Divorce

After her divorce from Richardson, she married Ted Hartley, chairman of RKO Pictures. She herself was elected vice chairman of RKO, proving that she also possessed executive and entrepreneurial skills.

Merrill was listed among the world's best-dressed women about the same time Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly were cited for their distinctive fashion sense and high-couture style.

The statuesque beauty expanded her interests to include charitable endeavors, too. When she discovered that one of her children had diabetes, she funded an organization that focused on diabetes research.

Indeed, Dina Merrill represented the intelligent American blonde whose feet were planted firmly on the ground!


## AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT |
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| GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS | |
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| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 2 KNOCKED UP | 3 STARDUST | 4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | | 2 MR. WOODCOCK | |
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Ayala Malls

glorietta — Urban Beats: Superbands at Glorietta featuring Taken by Cars and Mojofly; October 20; 6pm to 7:30pm; Glorietta 4 Park

GREENBELT — Trick or Treat at Greenbelt 3 Park; October 25 to 28 and 31

ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Automatic Center; October 15 to 26; Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU — Kasalang Filipino: Bridal Fair; October 19 to 21; Activity Center and Paseos

MARKET! MARKET! — Globe G-Cash Anniversary Event; October 20 & 21; Activity Center

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids; August - December 2007; For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com

Ayala MUSEUM — HYBRIDITY: Mark Lewis Higgins; September 18 to October 28, 2007; Ground Floor; For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

TriNoma — Rhythm Academy: The Company with the Las Piñas Boys Choir; October 20; 7pm; TriNoma Park

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STREET SMART

*Mandy Navasero*

Every piece you'll find in any of the shop's branches—at the Baguio Country Club, at 13 Leonard Wood rd. in Baguio, or at the second floor of LRI Design Plaza (formerly LRI Business Plaza)—is hip but homey.

**EVANGELISTA.** Runs a "pocket museum" of limited-edition sneakers.

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Visit Pnky's showroom for antiques and new furniture designs, unique lamps, home accessories and old-silver jewelry. Aside from wood sculptures, you'll also find Calude Tayag's paintings and book, Inday Cadapan's paintings, ceramics and dolls, and Narda's loom weavings (403-0392).

Another new shop at LRI is Jave Evangelista's Crate, a "pocket museum" of limited-edition sneakers displayed wall-to-wall in multicultural permutations. Each pair of shoes is an "icono-classic" artifact.

You no longer need to order special sneakers abroad through the Internet. Crate is owned and operated by Jave, who is Senator Juan Ponce-Enrile's chief of staff.

**MAGSINO.** Has fused the old and the new.

***

Josh Groban's recent PICC show, "Awake," was inspiring. Mrs. Imelda Marcos remarked in the hallway: "The PICC I built is too small for Josh Groban!" The venue was packed with beautiful people clad in their best outfits.

***

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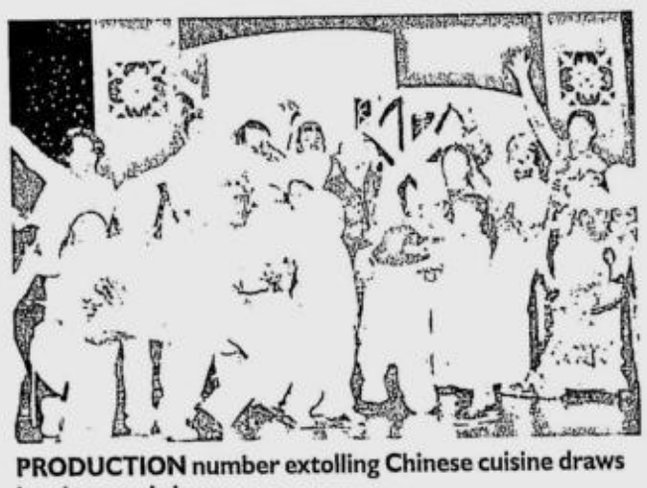
***

*Join the Mandy Navasero Batanes Photo Safari, in cooperation with Asian Spirit and Batanes Seaside Lodge and Resto, on Dec. 27-30, or anytime from January to May next year. E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, visit www.mandynavasero.com, or call 896-3208.*



**PRODUCTION** number extolling Chinese cuisine draws laughter and cheers.

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# Kaisa restages 'Tsinoy —Kaisa Ka!'

From page G6

"They were all good and very well done—the sad stories were very touching and poignant, and I am not embarrassed that I was close to tears a few times during the musical. The humorous scenes were lots of laughs, and I had a ball!" **–Dr. Bernardita Churchill, Historian**

## Unique

This is the first time that the Chinoy life story is depicted through a most unique theater experience. The musical rendition of 14 new songs is powerful and stirring; the dramatic scenes of sacrifice and sad experiences will bring tears to your eyes, and the parodies of the clash and blending of cultures will make you laugh.

The Nov. 6 show is for the benefit of the Fil-Chi Apostolate.

*E-mail kaisadotph @yahoo.com, or call 526-6796 Venue: Awat Keng Auditorium, Kaisa- Angelo King Heritage Center, 32 Anda cor. Cabildo sts., Intramuros, Manila (two blocks behind Manila Cathedral).*

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3 MR. WOODCOCK 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
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5 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
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METRO EAST
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NOVALICHES
1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 KNOCKED UP
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

PIONEER
1 MR. WOODCOCK 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 HIGHLANDER 1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
4 KNOCKED UP 12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

STA. ROSA
1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 KNOCKED UP
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

LIPA
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 THE HOST

DASMARIÑAS
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 KNOCKED UP
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

IMUS
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT APAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

ANGELES
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS / THE SEEKER
4 KNOCKED UP

TARLAC
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

STARMILLS
1 KNOCKED UP
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

BACOLOD
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 THE HOST
6 indieSine: TUKSO

ILOILO
1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

a film by Dennis Marasigan
CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner - Best Screenplay
The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.
showing at Robinsons Movieworld OCTOBER 17 to 23

# Kaisa restages 'Tsinoy—Kaisa Ka!' musical revue

BY POPULAR DEMAND, KAISA WILL HAVE repeat runs of its 20th anniversary musical revue, "Tsinoy—Kaisa Ka!," on Sunday, Nov. 4 (3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) and Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m. Staged last September, the show received rave reviews from those who watched it. Some enthusiasts' reactions:

"It was wonderful working with a bunch of talented, dedicated and hardworking young people. It was a great show! I'll be here for the November run." **–Jose Mari Chan**

"Congratulations! Great acting, great singing. Interesting and entertaining all throughout the show. Every Chinese-Filipino should see the show. Kaisa should also promote it to Filipinos so they would arrive at a better understanding." **–George Yang, (McDonald's Philippines )**

KAISA/ G5

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We've got them

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Tricks or treats at the movies /H3

# SATURDAY Special

# 'Kid Nation' imparts valuable lessons to young and adult viewers alike

By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY MONTH OR SO, A NEW reality show starts telecasting on local TV screens, each of them striving mightily to attract viewers with its "unique selling proposition."

For most shows, this unique edge tends to be related to shock or sex value. That's fine and dandy, but the brazen sexploitation often turns viewers off instead of on.

Other reality programs bank on celebrities' day-to-day lives being lived in front of intrusive TV cameras, but their appeal similarly palls when viewers get bored with the "aquarium" format—and the predictability even of some stars' wildest antics.

## Relevant aspects

No, the best "reality" shows are those that deal with the truly relevant aspects of many viewers' real lives and concerns. That's why the new show on Studio 23, "Kid Nation" (Mondays at 7 p.m.), is such an unexpected sensation.

THREE of the new reality show's 40 kids find that reviving a ghost town is a tough challenge.

It takes 40 kids to a ghost town and tasks them to transform it into a thriving community without the help of adults. Thus does it aim to prove that even children, if they learn how to work well together, can achieve the improbable.

Even better, in so doing, kids can teach their elders a lesson that many adults need to learn in this strife-torn, contentious world.

As we watched the show last Monday, however, it initially didn't seem likely that the kids would pull it off. They were argumentative and complained all the time about everything, so it didn't appear to be possible that they could complete their 40-day assignment with flying colors.

It helped some when the production appointed the group's four young leaders, some of whom were able to convince the other kids to *try* to work together.

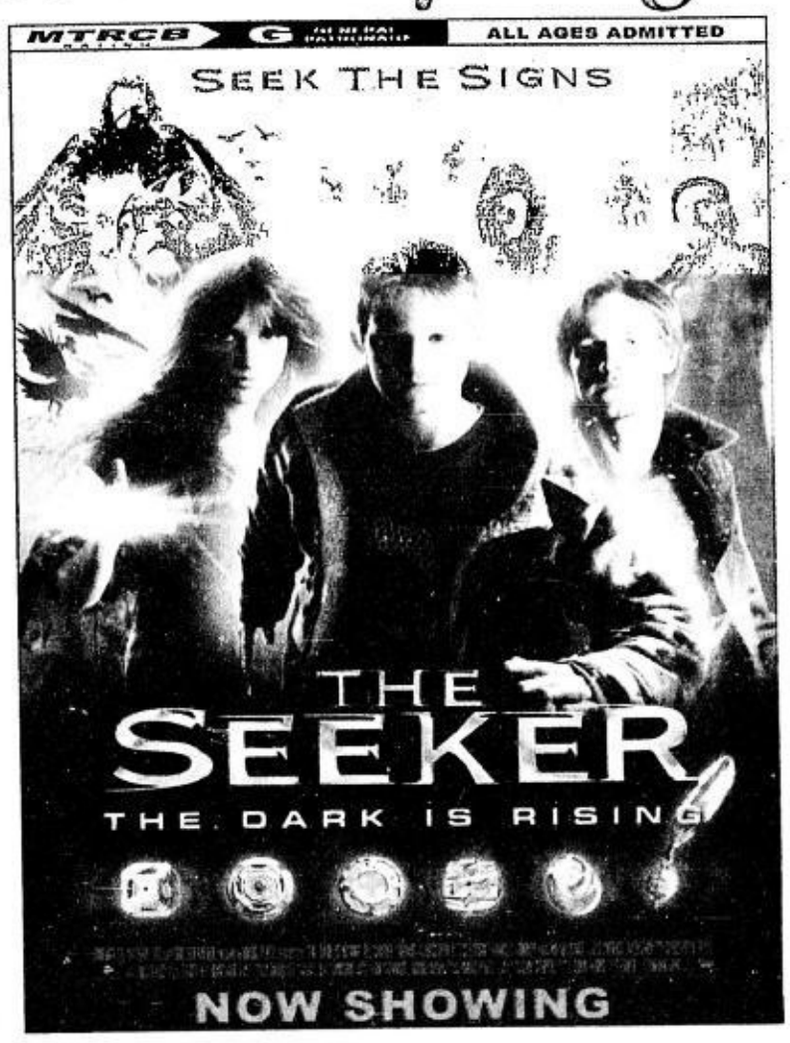
But, the activity that really galvanized the group was a competition that pitted four subgroups against each other, for the right to enjoy preferred status in their little community. Thus did the children learn that perks result from hard work, and the significance of that key life lesson clearly wasn't lost on them.

## Heartfelt talk

Another major lesson was learned when one of the kids delivered a heartfelt talk that subdued some of the children's anarchic tendencies. Yet another child made a deep impression when she took over the community's cooking chores, despite the many difficulties involved.

These two kids were our

'KID NATION'/ H2



HEIGL AND ROGEN. Opposites attract.

NOW SHOWING

# Comedy, irony effectively intertwine in 'Knocked Up'

By Rito P. Asilo

**"Knocked Up"**
*D: Judd Apatow*
*S: Seth Rogen, Katherine Heigl*

IN JUDD APATOW'S LATEST COMEDIC triumph after 2005's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," the jokes may occasionally be crude and callous, but they're also surprisingly pertinent and cleverly delivered:

Eight weeks after 23-year-old jobless slacker, Ben Stone (Seth Rogen), and up-and-coming entertainment TV reporter, Allison Scott (Katherine Heigl), meet at a bar and engage in casual sex, they learn that their spur-of-the-moment indiscretion has turned into something more than just a one-night-stand: She's been knocked up!

With sister Debbie (Leslie Mann) and brother-in-law, Pete (Paul Rudd), behind her, Allison decides to keep the baby—but she's not quite sure if she feels the same way about its overweight, directionless father!

Despite having little in common—she's tall, ambitious and lovely, he's pudgy, unkempt, and plain-looking—they nonetheless agree to give their "relationship" a go, until their differences make them realize just how incongruous and incompatible their lives are!

Is this a case of opposites attracting each other? Once again, Apatow tweaks a familiar storyline and persuasively mines its boy-meets-girl, girl-gets-pregnant-out-of-wedlock premise for its social significance (unwanted pregnancy, growing up and taking responsibility) and comic irony (Debbie gets even more insulted after she learns that Pete's "secret" life involves a fantasy baseball league, *not* a mistress).

Smartly juxtaposed into Ben and Allison's situation is the seemingly ideal but apparently shaky relationship between the married couple: The scathingly critical Debbie and her emotionally detached hubby, Pete, who's the constant object of her ire.

The dynamic tension and emotional juggernaut that transpire between Debbie and Pete are played to comic perfection by Mann and Rudd. (Adding more color to Apatow's dramedy are cameo performances from Steve Carrell, James Franco, Jessica Alba—and must-see, a scene-stealing Ryan Seacrest!)

Obviously, Rogen is no George Clooney, but the likable comic is appropriately cast as the slacker boyfriend of the lovely and talented Heigl, who ably balances alternating comic and dramatic scenes. She handles delicate moments with care, confidence and aplomb!

In presenting the denouement that the film's protagonists struggle with, Apatow's smart dramedy pulls no punches and presents an imperfect world where uncertainty and anxiety seamlessly intertwine with comedy and irony.

In Ben and Allison's parallel reality, people dwell in a world that draws a fine line between fulfillment and a lingering sense of discontent!

# 'Kid Nation'... From page H1

candidates for the show's weekly award for best achiever—which delighted viewers when the "gold" star turned out to indeed be worth its weight in gold—valued at $20,000, to be precise.

For a kid, that weekly prize is a bonanza that could change his or even his family's life. So, it galvanized the other kids to do similarly outstanding work in the weeks to come.

After the first telecast, we appreciated the new program's strengths—but we also noted some potentially weak links:

First, the show's demands may be too rigorous for little children—hence the exit last week of a lonely and harassed 8-year-old. Second, the program could be emphasizing the spirit of competition too much. Now that the value of gold star has been revealed, some kids may be striving too hard to win it the next time around.

## Objective

Perhaps it would have been better to award the star to a subgroup, rather than to an individual. That way, the subgroup's members would still be taught the need to compete, but they would also learn that, to win, they need to work together to achieve the same objective.

Despite these and other potentially troubling aspects, "Kid Nation" is a bracing addition to our viewing options. Let's hope that it continues to teach valuable lessons about how young people think and feel—lessons that adults could learn a lot from, as well!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3 KNOCKED UP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) STURDUST
5

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(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
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2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
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6 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
7 (3D DOLBY) STURDUST
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3 RESERVED
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APT MARKETPLACE
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4 KNOCKED UP

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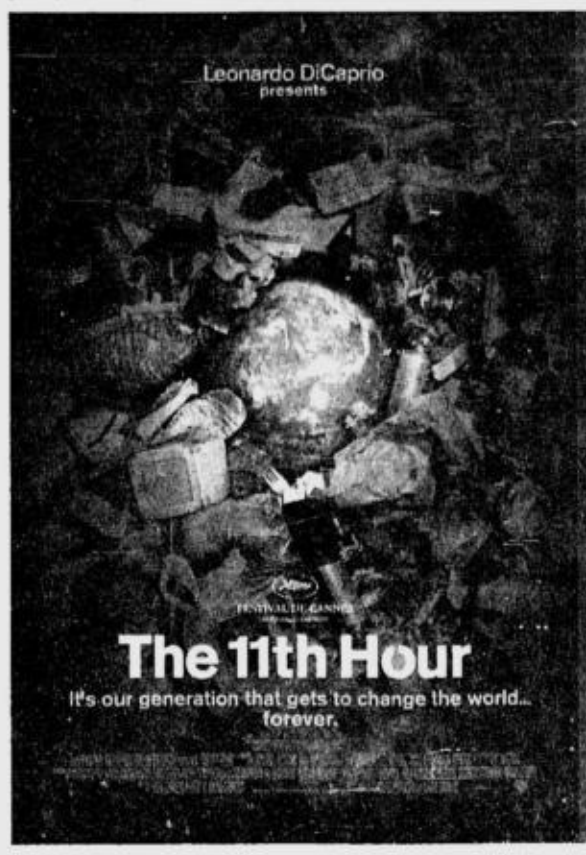

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4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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2 CARTOON NETWORK
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4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

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3 WEDDING DAZE
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5 DAYWATCH
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
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3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 CARTOON NETWORK
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

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2 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

# Tricks or treats at the movies

By Nestor U. Torre

"STARDUST" IS A VIEWING TREAT that tells a beguiling story about love, sorcery and the seductive interstices in between: A young man's passion for the loveliest girl in town prompts him to dare to do the "impossible": Locate a fallen star and bring it back to her before she accepts a "better" prospect's proposal of marriage.

His love makes the impossible astonishingly achievable—but, there's a catch: The star turns out to be a young woman, who eventually proves to be much more exquisite than his cold-hearted love!

As though this twist weren't fetching enough, the film brings in other fascinating characters and instructive situations, each dramatizing prismatic views of the life-love continuum and conundrum:

### Princes

A number of princes trying to kill each other, so the last survivor can be crowned King. Three old witches desperate to reclaim their long lost youth and beauty by cutting out the fallen star's heart. And the captain of a "flying ship" whose job is to collect lightning bolts—!

In such phantasmagoric company, our ardent protagonist and his captive star learn lessons of the heart that transform them beyond their wildest expectations. The film's enchanting phantasms invite imaginative visualizations that further enhance the story's ability to seduce and enthrall viewers into purring submission.

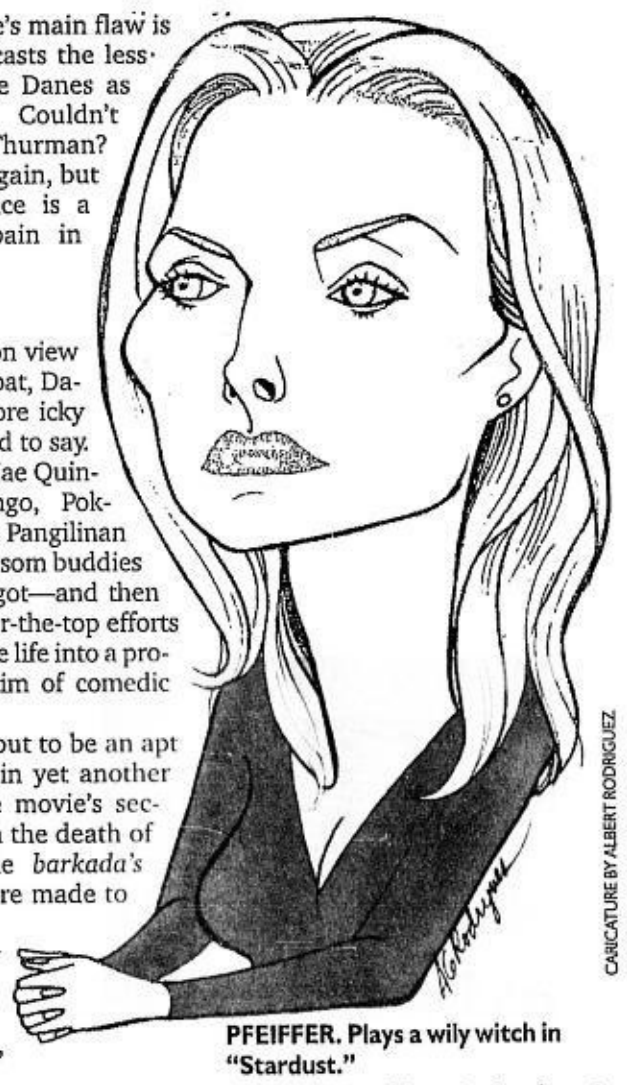
And, with Michelle Pfeiffer playing one of the witches and Robert De Niro cast as the flying ship's coy and fey captain, "Stardust" is even more of a cinematic treat.

Indeed, the movie's main flaw is the fact that it miscasts the less-than ethereal Claire Danes as its luminous star. Couldn't they afford Uma Thurman? Danes may be a bargain, but her cloying presence is a major drag and pain in the—aesthetics.

### Bosom buddies

Our second film on view this week, "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat," offers more icky tricks than treats, sad to say. Lead players Rufa Mae Quinto, Eugene Domingo, Pokwang and Candy Pangilinan give their roles as bosom buddies everything they've got—and then some. But, their over-the-top efforts aren't able to breathe life into a project that is the victim of comedic overkill.

"Overkill" turns out to be an apt word for this film in yet another sense, because the movie's second half focuses on the death of one of the female *barkada's* members. Efforts are made to delude her loved ones into thinking that she's alive and kicking, but they're improbable, at best.



CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

**PFEIFFER. Plays a wily witch in "Stardust."**

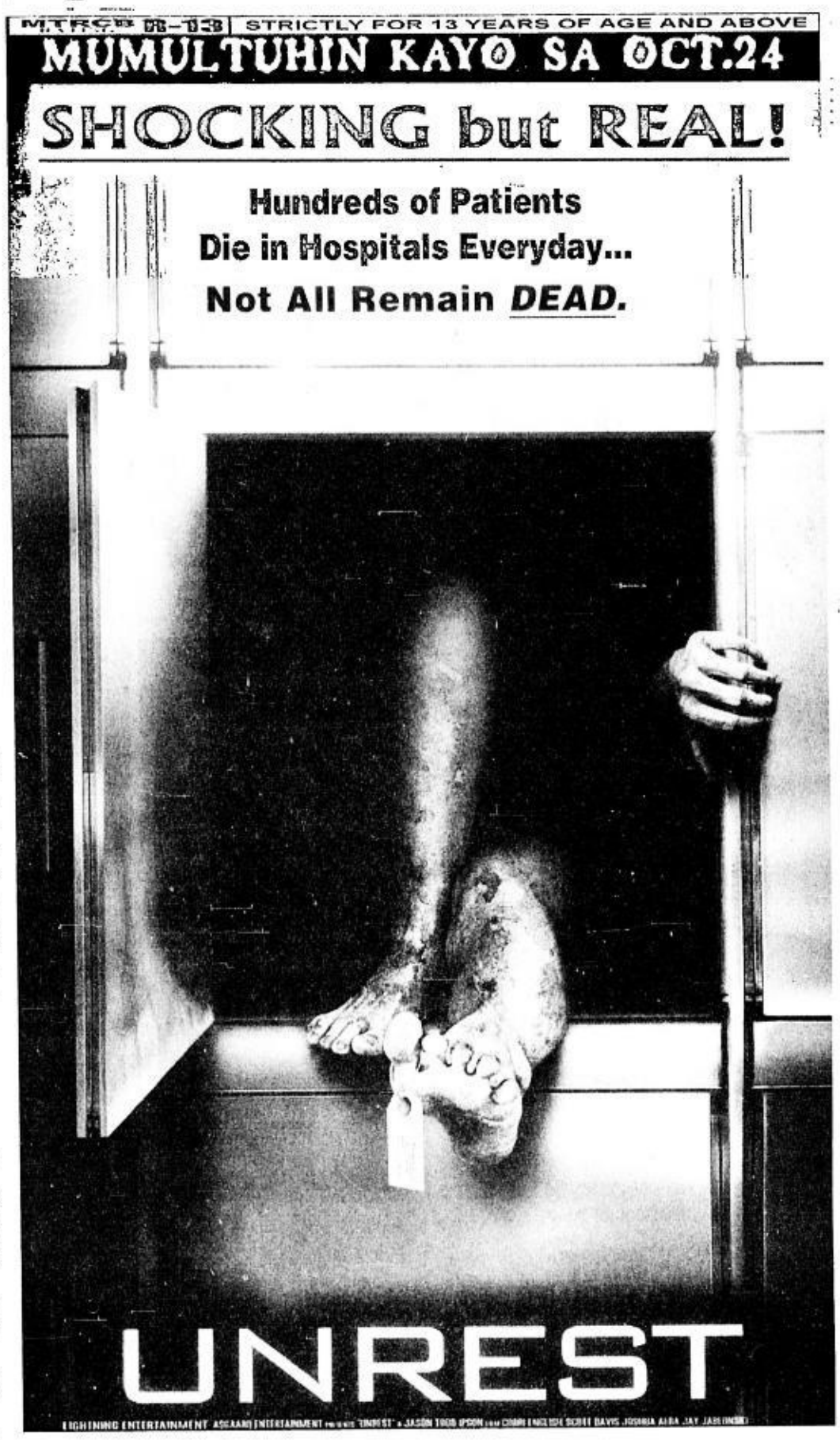
### Problem

A death in a comedy—isnt' that a sure way to kill the laughs? Now, there *have* been a few comedy movies about dead bodies, like "Weekend at Bernie's," but the "problem" of the corpse that needs to be kept "alive" was handled in a much lighter and more wittily inventive way there than it is here.

Another problem is the fact that the hapless victim was killed by her employers in Hong Kong. This is a vicious crime that has serious resonances for some OCWs, so it's bizarre to find it being used as comic fodder in this misguided production.

We appreciate some of this movie's more breezily antic scenes and folksy touches, but it confounds more than it entertains.

**"APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT." Comedic overkill.**




# Therapy from the ocean

LOTUS POND

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

WHO SAYS ONLY THE RICH CAN afford the benefits of a spa luxury treatment? Fact is, everyone can avail of free therapy by soaking in Mother Nature's best pool—the ocean. Ocean therapy is wonderful! It can rejuvenate, heal, nourish and detoxify our bodies.

### Refreshing

A friend remarked: "Going into the ocean is like drinking coconut water—it's refreshing!" The reason is not simply due to temperature change and its consequent cooling effect: seawater is abundant with minerals that revitalize tired bodies.

Jane Scrivner once wrote, "The seawater's mineral content is its magic ingredient. Its constituents are said to be similar to those of blood plasma, so spending time immersed in those minerals is extremely beneficial for our health."

Scrivner listed down seawater's important minerals and their benefits:

- Bromides are useful in cell regeneration, repair and metabolism.
- Calcium regulates the heart and nervous system, nourishes bones and teeth, and helps ease arthritis.
- Magnesium strengthens bones, teeth, muscles and the heart.
- Potassium helps maintain fluid balance, along with sodium. It expels excess fluids.
- Selenium is a powerful antioxidant.
- Zinc promotes healing and helps teeth and bone development.

The gifts of the ocean await!

# Sherwin Sozon holds voice recital tomorrow

SHERWIN K. SOZON, TENOR, WILL be presented by Mamerto Villaba in a voice recital tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall of BDO South Tower, H.V. de la Costa st. corner Makati ave., Makati City. Albert Jude Areopagita will accompany the recitalist at the piano.

### Have a haunting Nick Halloween

This month on the fun-filled Nickelodeon channel, the popular Hi-5 group regales young viewers at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. weekdays.

MONTAGE

Also keep a lively eye out for "Wayside" every Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

On Oct. 31, have a haunting Halloween with Spooky TV Specials like Danny Phantom's "Frightmare" at 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. Then, there's the "Scary GodParents" episode on "The Fairly OddParents" at 6 and 10 p.m. Plus: "The Haunting of Home Base" in "The X's" at 6:30 and 10:30 p.m. And, to top everything off, watch "Invader Zim's" Halloween Spectacular of Doom" at 7 and 11 p.m.! Log on to www.nicksplat.com.

### Oxygen fashion show

Celebrity endorsers, Karel Marquez and Derek Ramsey, recently took to the runway to debut Oxygen's newest line of ultra-hip gimmick wear, the Low Riders collection. A fusion of post-punk aesthetic and rock 'n' roll vibe, the collection comprises trendy pieces that make a unique fashion statement. Also unveiled to great effect were the Dream Factory (hooded tees, new silhouettes) and Futurists (metallic prints, touches of shine) lines.

### Movies on TV

On HBO today at 3 p.m., "Final Analysis." Tomorrow at 3 p.m., "Superman Returns" Oct. 22 at 1 p.m., "Click." Oct. 23 at 1 p.m., "Bugsy." Oct. 24 at 3 p.m., "The Gospel." Oct. 25 at 7 a.m., "The Nutty Professor."

On Cinemax today at 3 p.m., "Simom Sez." Tomorrow at 11 p.m., "The Interpreter." Oct. 22 at 3 p.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." Oct. 23 at 11 p.m., "Casino." Oct. 24 at 1 p.m., "Bonnie and Clyde." Oct. 25 at 3 p.m., "King Solomon's Mines." Oct. 26 at 5 p.m., "Trading Places."

### 'Deep Sea 3D'

San Miguel Coca Cola Imax Theater is inviting school heads to book special screenings for their students of its latest cinematic feature, "Deep Sea 3D," a docu about the preservation of marine life. The informative feature is narrated by Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet. Call 566IMAX (4629).

### 'The Story of Christine'

Tintin Bersola-Babao's latest book for children, "The Story of Christine," will be launched at 4 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Glorietta 3 lobby, in front of Bridges Bookstore.

### 'Dirty Jobs'

Mike Rowe is the host and resident "guinea pig" of the Discovery Channel's newest show, "Dirty Jobs," about the most off-putting jobs in the world—like zoo cage cleaner, road kill collector, sewer inspector, and disaster clean-up crew. Airing every Monday at 10 p.m., "Dirty Jobs" Oct. 22 episode visits a farm that specializes in worm dung.

### 'Planet in Peril'

On Oct. 24 and 25 at 9 p.m., CNN telecasts the four-hour documentary, "Planet in Peril." which takes viewers to four continents and 13 countries to show that environmental change is not a theory, but a crisis happening in real time.

Bringing viewers to stories behind the statistics are Anderson Cooper, Dr. Sanjay Gupta and wildlife biologist, Jeff Corvin. They will focus on four main issues that threaten the planet: Climate change, deforestation, species loss and overpopulation.

### At Starmall Edsa

Kids rule at Starmall Edsa tomorrow at 3 p.m. for Jollibee's Masquerade Party and Trick or Treat at the Activity Area, with a spooky costume competition added to the freaky-fun mix. Call 724-4992.

### Piano and string quartet

Pianist Ingrid Santamaria and the Peace Philharmonic Philippines Quintet will perform on Oct. 22 at the Antonio Molina Hall, BDO North Tower, Makati City. Quartet members are Brian Cimafranca, Sara Gonzales, Jeffrey Solares and Gerry Gonzales. Call 840-7000, loc. 2258.

### 'Art2Art'

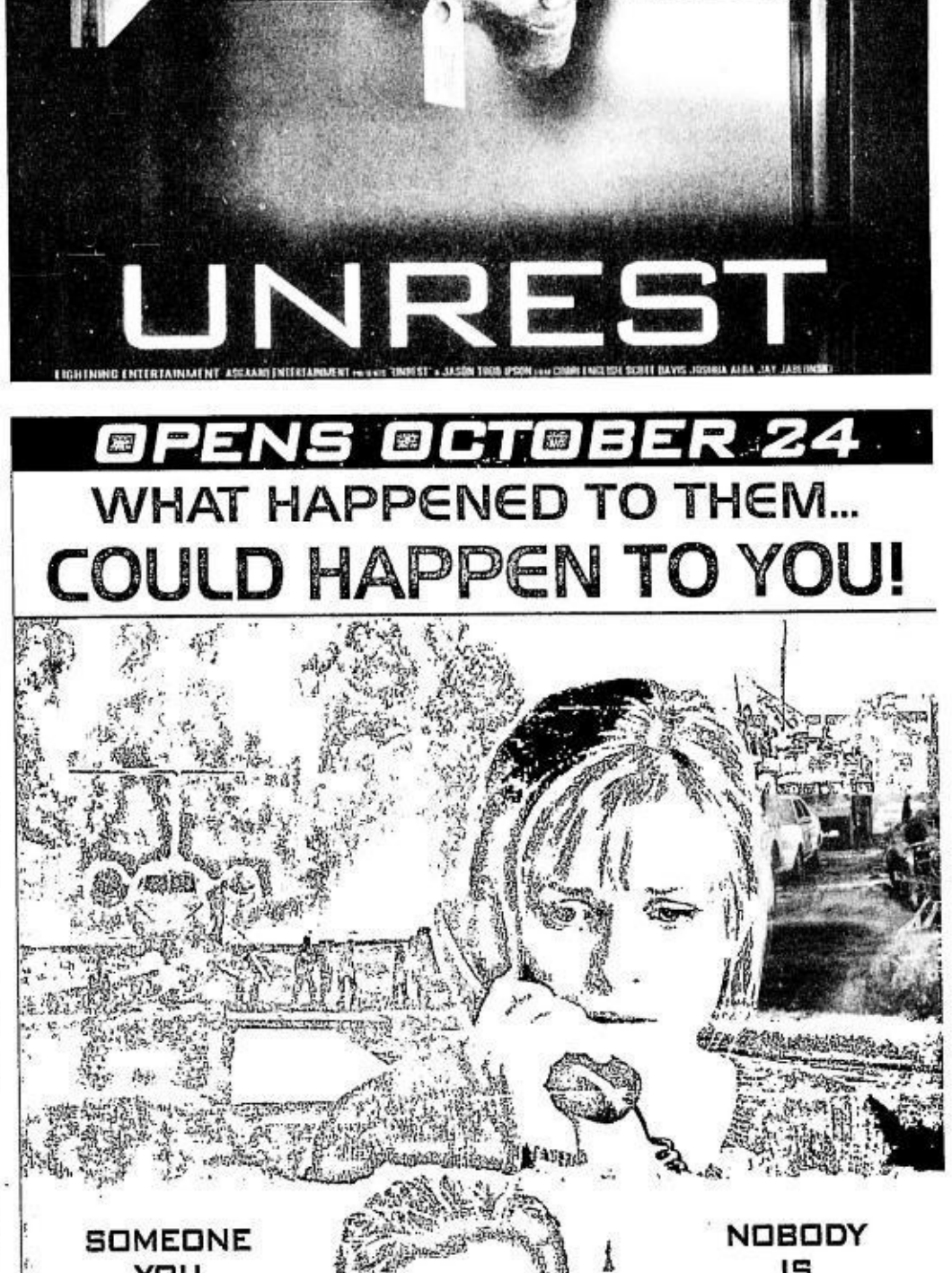
Tomorrow at 3 p.m., prizewinning screenwriter and director Doy del Mundo guests on Lisa Macuja's "Art2Art" radio program on dzRH to talk about his exceptional films.

### Arthritis awareness campaign

Today, Arthritis Day, Medical City physicians will provide free medical consultations for people suffering from arthritis, plus x-ray if advisable. On Nov. 15, the same activities will take place at the Asian Hospital, from 2 to 5 p.m. The arthritis awareness campaign has been launched by Stryker. Call 892-9343 (Stryker Call Center) or text 0920-9006156 (Stryker Mobile).

### 'Full Circle'

Raymond Lauchengco launches his "Full Circle" album on Oct. 26 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. The new CD has the "Bagets" star singing songs of the '80s with swinging big band arrangements.



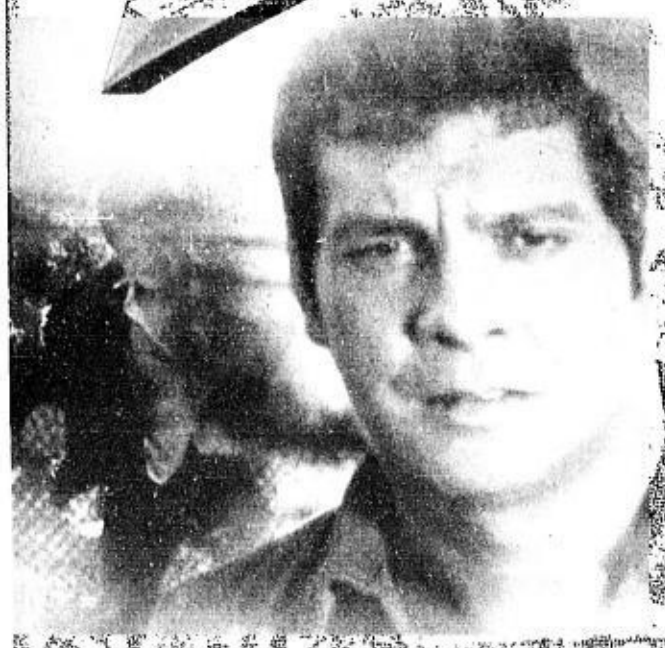
ONE COUNTRY
ONE STATION
ONE

# PATOK

PATOK SA AKSYON

Isang pagpupugay sa Hari ng Pelikulang Pilipino bilang pagtugon sa kahilingan ng bayan.

Ang unang handog---
**HINDI PA TAPOS ANG LABAN**



Showing ngayong Hapon

# CINEMA FPI

## DA KING on ABS-CBN

PATOK ANG PINOY

Sinu-sino ang manganganib na mapalayas sa Bahay ni Kuya?

**FIRST NOMINATION NIGHT**

Mamayang Gabi 10 pm

Pinoy Big Brother

CELEBRITY EDITION 2

Ang Teleserye ng Totoong Buhay

PATOK SA PATAWA

KRIS TV

TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS BEHAVIOR!

Mapapanood mo na ang mga extreme, embarrassing at outrageous videos from all over the world!

*Hosted by* **Brod Pete**

Bukasnal 11 am

PATOK SA ADVENTURE

Ang pare mo na superhero muling mangungulit sa'yo!

COMING SOON

SUPERINGGO 1.5

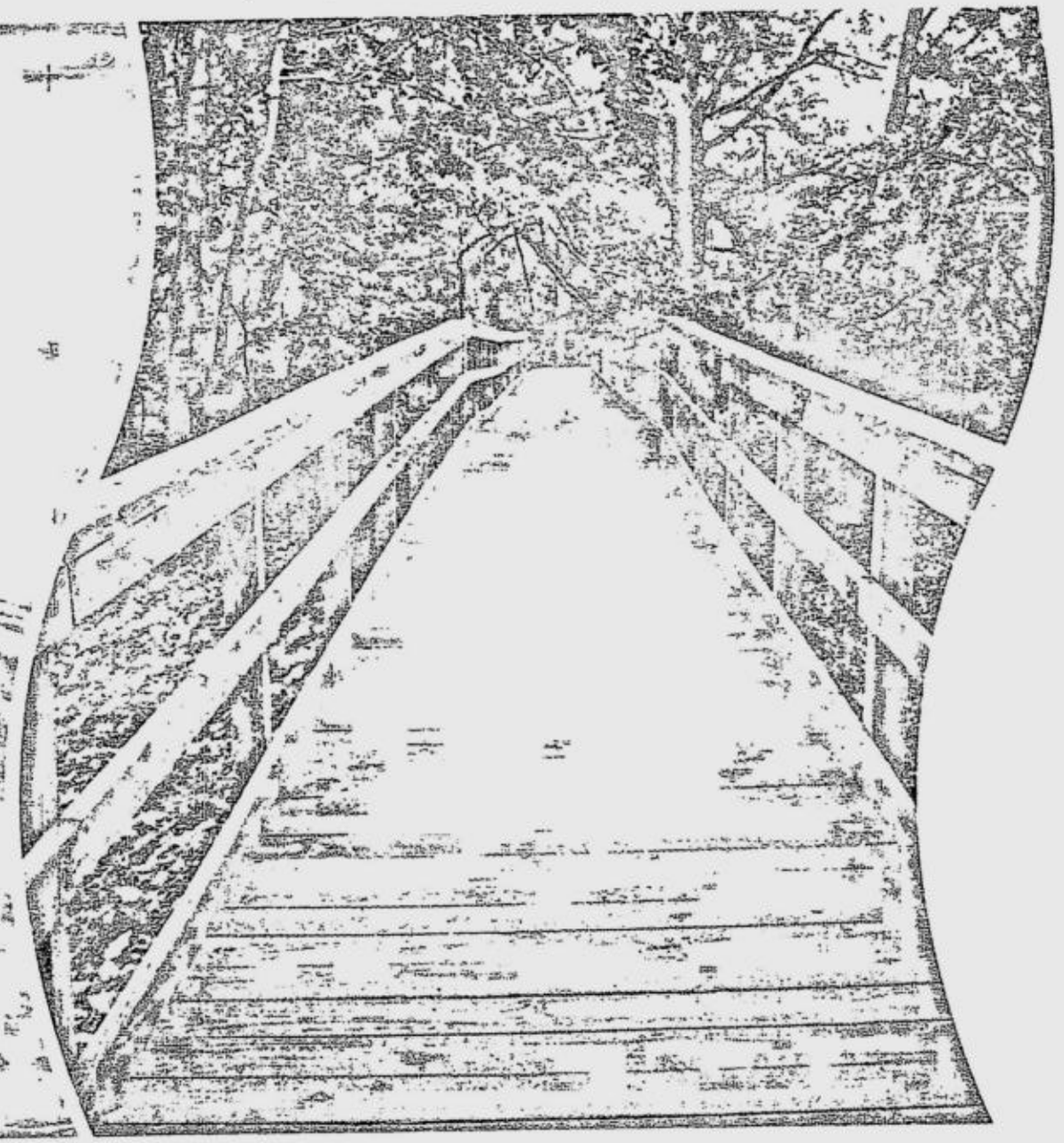
ANG BAGONG BANGIS

ABS-CBN

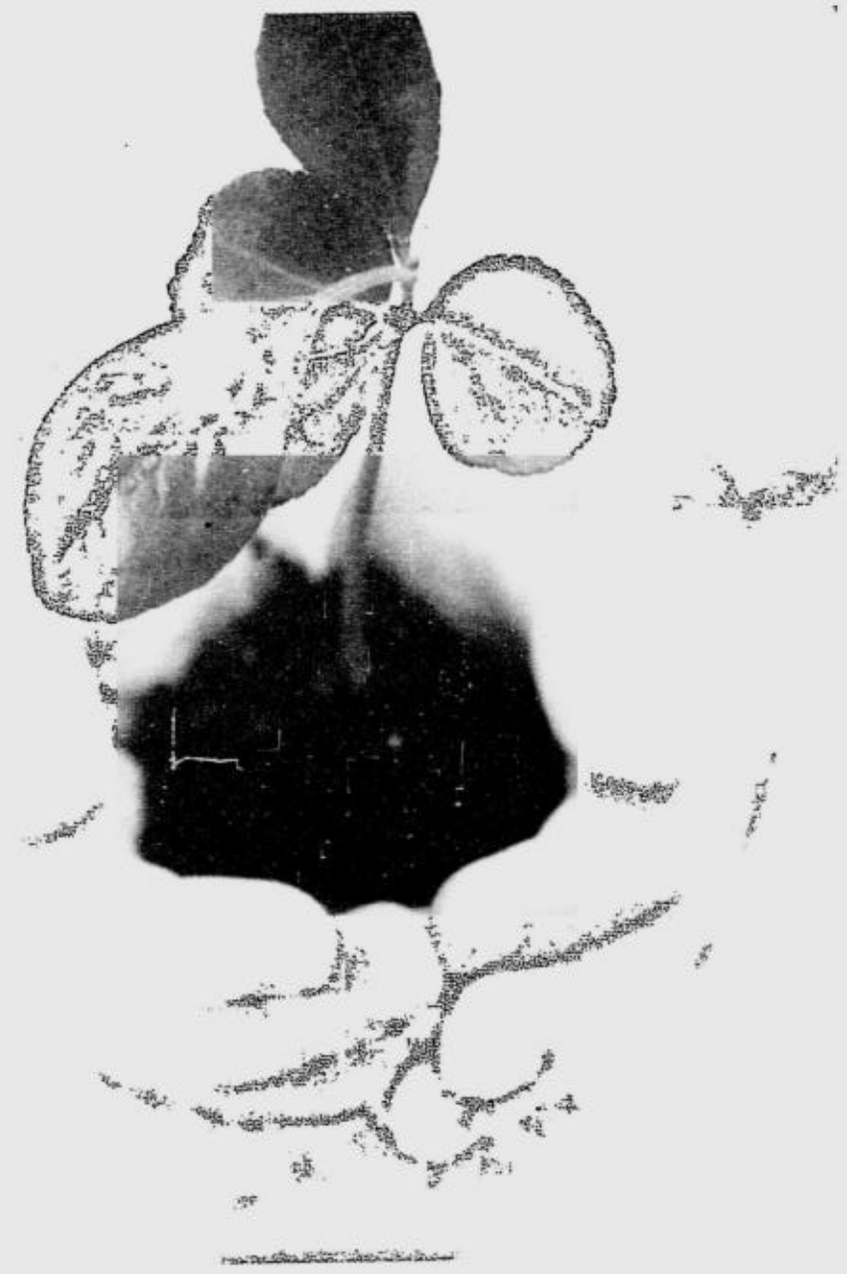
Life is
**a breeze...**

Life is
**fluid...**

Life is
**a walk in the park...**



Life is
**going back to your roots...**



Life is at TREVEIA
*NUVALI*

At the heart of Nuvali, Ayala Land's sprawling vision of the future, is Treveia, a vibrant residential neighborhood by Community Innovations.

Treveia offers the perfect harmony of modern living in an inspiring natural setting. Four themed parks, each representing the elements of nature—water, wood, earth and wind—provide the perfect backdrop for families to come together and enjoy what matters most in life.

Where nature thrives and people truly connect, that's where life truly is. At *Treveia.*

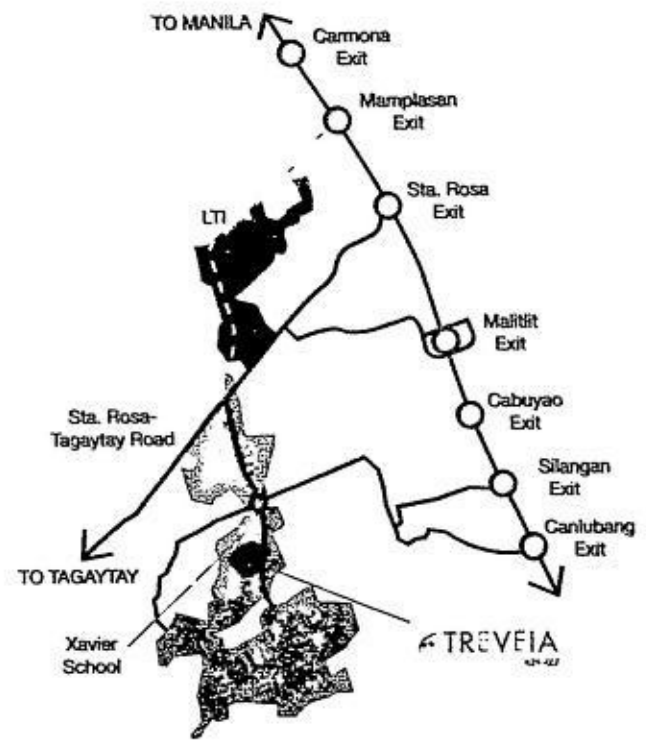
Call: **856.1888** | Email: **cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph**

*Community Innovations*
*Live the life you deserve*
an AyalaLand company

This advertisement was printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper.

Less than an hour south from Metro Manila is NUVALI, Ayala Land's vision of a new, fully-sustainable metropolis of the future. Nuvali represents the evolution in Ayala Land's approach to masterplanning and is the first large-scale development in the Philippines to be built in the principles of sustainable design.

NUVALI
EVOLIVING
of AyalaLand




# TREVEIA
## NUVALI

Community Innovations sets its mark in Nuvali with Treveia – a residential haven that introduces a lifestyle that warmly nurtures close family and community ties in a healthy, upscale and eco-friendly environment.

### Life is Harmonious...

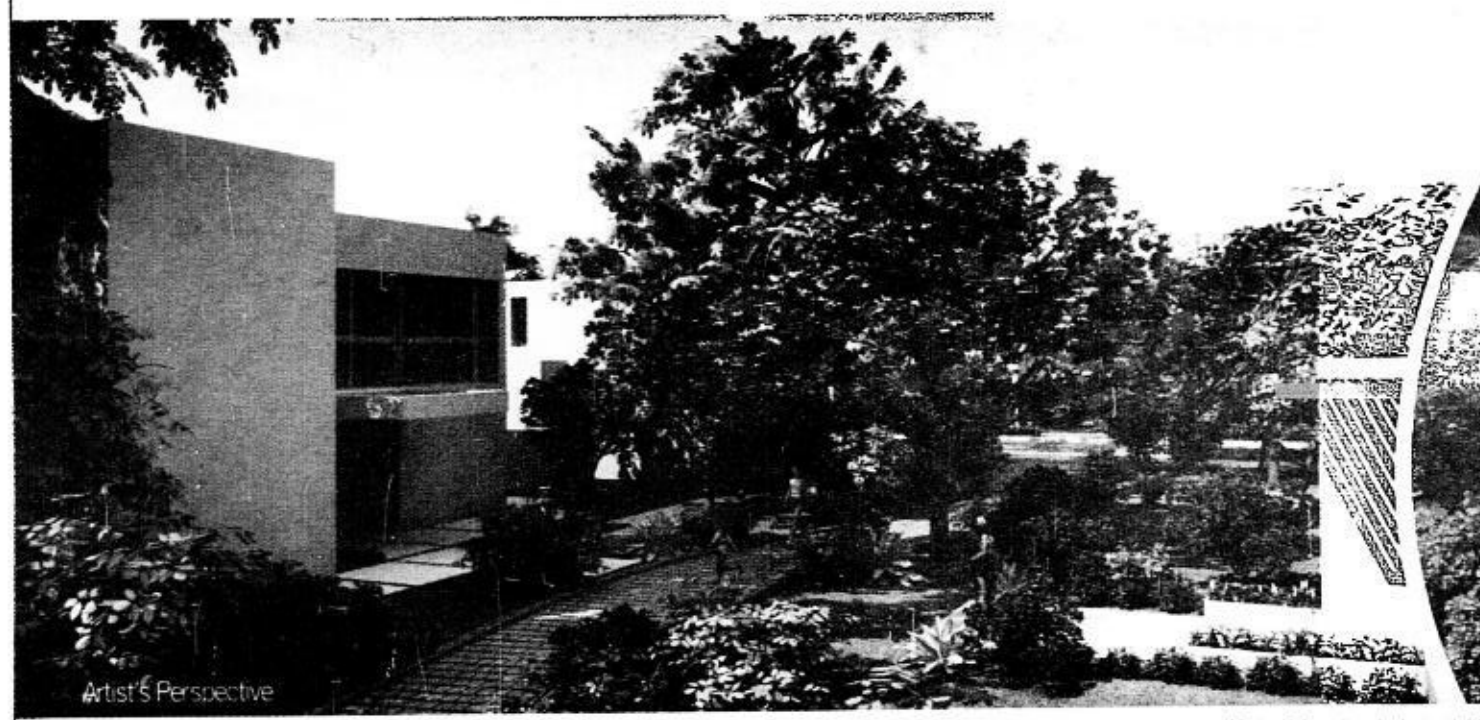
Community Innovations' groundbreaking venture in Nuvali, stays true to the ideals of Ayala Land for fully-sustainable communities. The development is principally designed with the environment in mind and is equipped with systems that guarantee nature's long-term sustenance and protection through energy and water resource efficiency. As the perfect dwelling place for families, 1 : blends these eco-friendly systems seamlessly into its modern facilities and complete amenities, ensuring a community that nurtures the ties that bind.

### Life is vibrant...

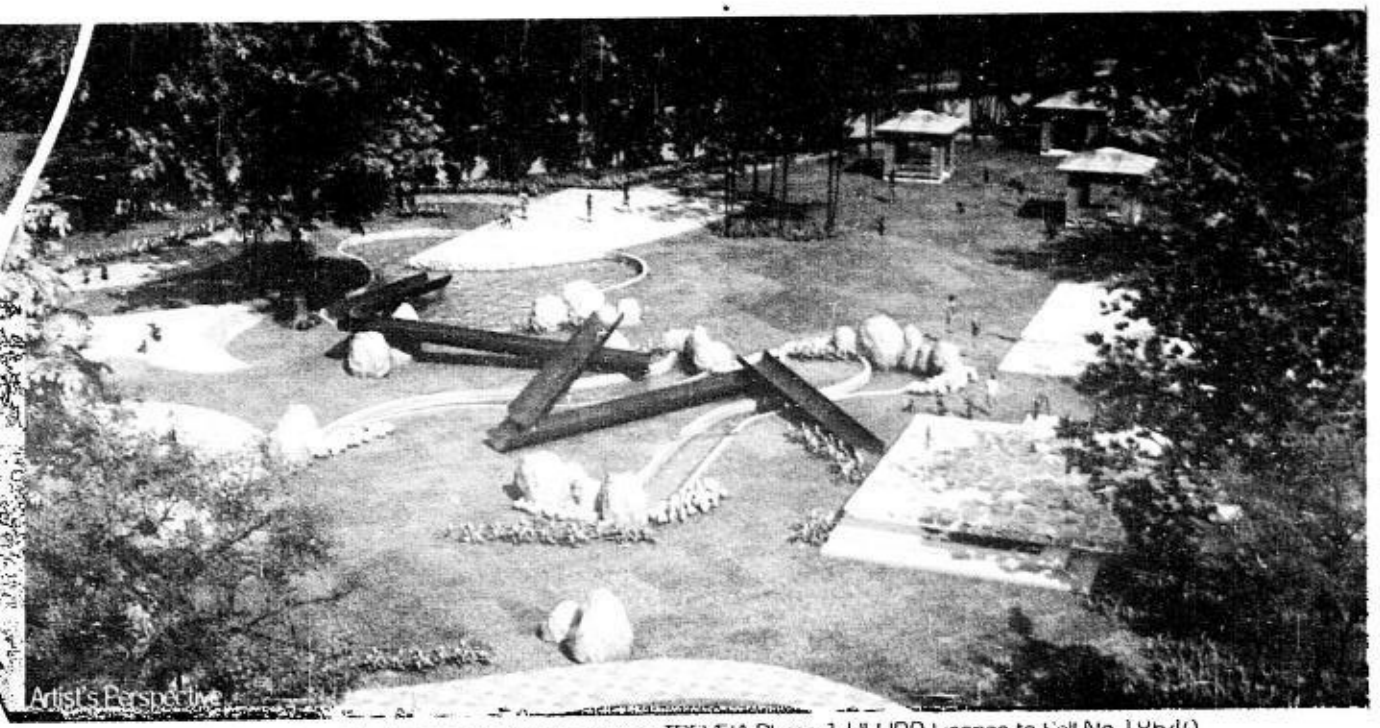
A 2.5 hectare Central Park is the centerpiece of a park that offers something for you and every member of the family. Enjoy refreshing green groves, reflection ponds, a jog path and bicycle and pedestrian lanes. Engage in active sports at the football field, the basketball court and the 40-meter lap pool The 1,200 square meter Grand Clubhouse is a sight to behold with its cutting-edge architecture, and the distinctive kids' playhouse and outdoor play area. Indoor activities are also fun as you relax in the theater, work-out in the fitness room or hang-out in the game rooms. There is just so much to do and more reasons to enjoy life

### Life is different all the time...

themed parks offer a different retreat for different needs. Connected by pedestrian-friendly, tree-lined walks, each park is thoughtfully designed to represent and celebrate the four elements of nature—water (The Rain Garden Park), wood (The Woodland Park), earth (The Hillock Park) and wind (The Wind Chime Park),—the community's four main parks are a unique feature not found in any other residential community.


Artist's Perspective

Artist's Perspective


Artist's Perspective

The particulars, details, and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, which have been prepared with [illegible] verify their factual and subsequent change. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. TREVEIA Phase 1 HLURB License to Sell No.18540

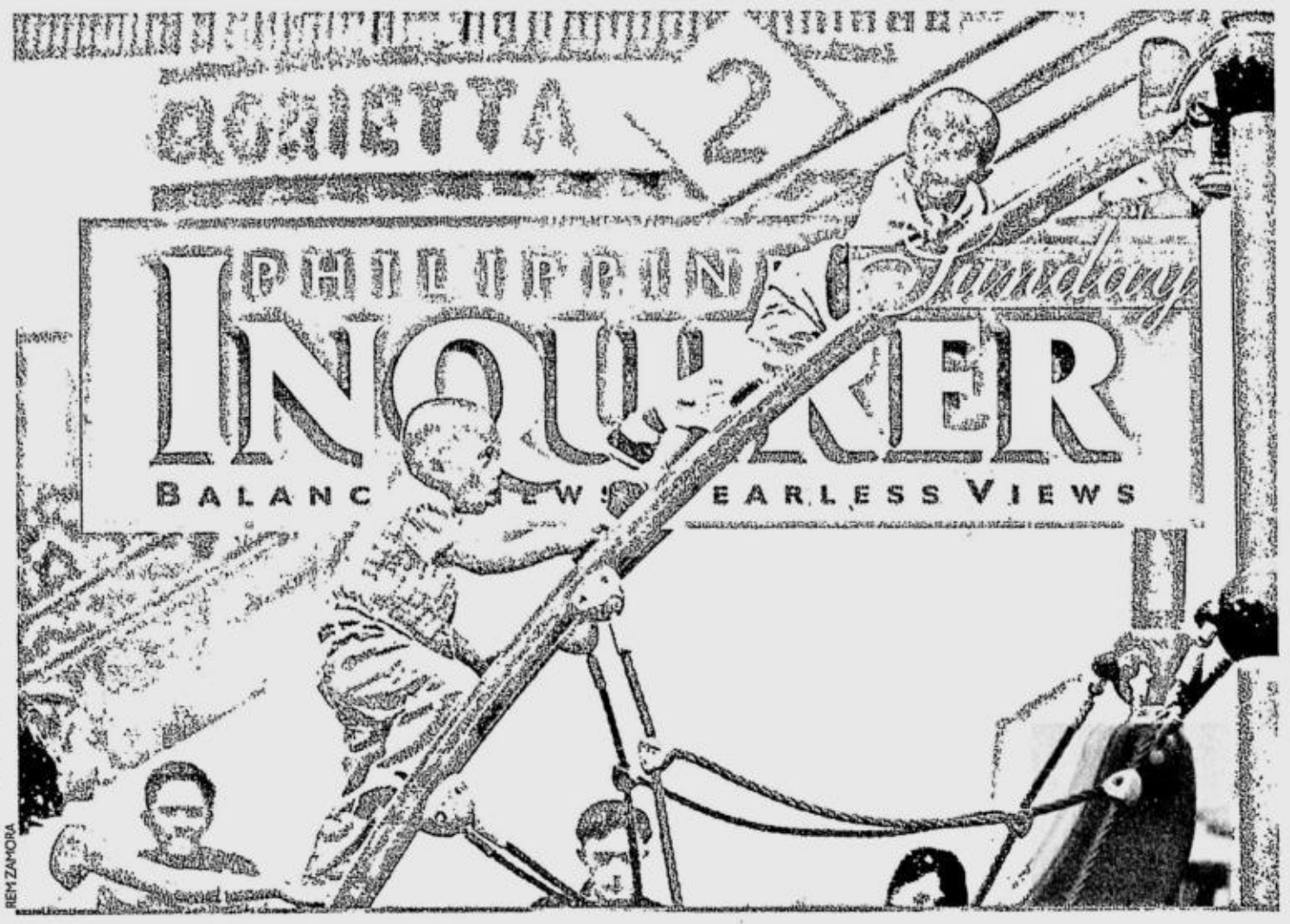
Sunday, October 21, 2007 ★★' 14 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 315 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

**Hong Kong Pinoys'**
Sunday hangout up for demolition to make way for large shopping mall
**GLOBAL PINOY/** A18

**Food scientist**
produces Bicol's first sweet pineapple wine
**SUNDAY BIZ** / B1

**'Idol' rigodon:**
Heartthrob finalist now a Kapuso; two judges join Kapamilya network
**ENTERTAINMENT** / F1



BUSINESS UNUSUAL. A smattering of shoppers and energetic children enliven the Activity Center of Glorietta 2 which opened for business yesterday. REM ZAMORA

**School teaches**
blind to surf the Net, send e-mails and more importantly, to be independent
**METRO/** A17

**RP film joins**
controversial entries in this year's Oscars
**ENTERTAINMENT** / G1

**Tessa Prieto-Valdes**
wins RP's first edition of 'Celebrity Duets'
**NEWS/** A2

# ₱3-M bounty on bomber

## Probers have no suspects yet, find traces of explosives

By Alcuin Papa and Julie M. Aurelio

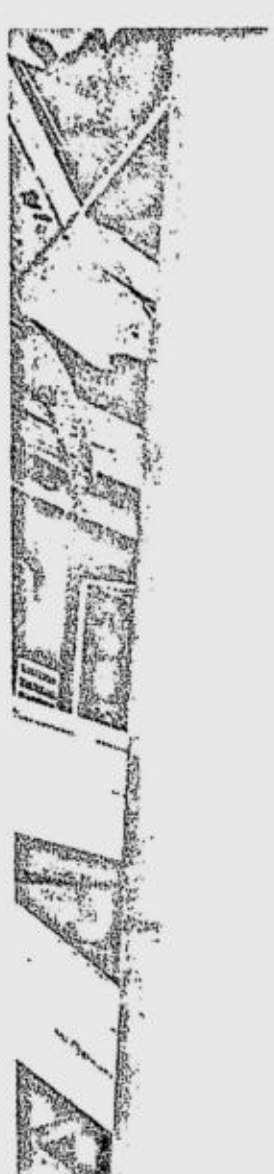
A TOTAL OF P3 MILLION IS being offered for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators of the Friday bomb attack at a shopping complex in Makati City, where police investigators said they found traces of a main component of the C4 explosive.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a P2-million reward "for anybody who can give us info on the suspects in this incident" at Glorietta 2, Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), told reporters yesterday.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay will put up another P1 million "if the blasts turn out to be an act of terrorism," his son, Councilor Junjun Binay, said at a news conference.

The city government and the business sector are pledging the amount to ensure "the arrest and conviction of those responsible," said the younger

P3-M REWARD/ A8







## Whodunit: 'Terror group' claims blast

By Arlyn dela Cruz, Nikko Dizon and Norman Bordadora

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY SAID THE bomb attack on the country's premier financial district was a "terrorist act" regardless of who carried it out.

The military statement followed claims from someone supposedly representing the Rajah Solaiman Revolutionary Movement (RSRM) that the bombing of the Glorietta 2 mall was the handiwork of the group.

The claim, however, appeared to be a hoax.

"Allahu Akhbar, we want the military to immediately release Ahmed Santos to prevent incoming collateral damage. Makati is just the beginning," said a text message from someone who identified himself as "Sheik Omar RSRM."

The RSRM is another name used to refer to the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), an alleged Islamist terror band

WHODUNIT/ A8

## Back to normal at the malls the morning after

By DJ Yap, Julie M. Aurelio and Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

A SEMBLANCE OF NORMALCY RE-turned to the Glorietta mall in Makati City yesterday as it resumed operations in the aftermath of the huge explosion that rocked the shopping complex Friday.

It was business as usual at Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 beginning at 10 a.m., the mall's opening hours, but it soon became apparent that the situation was anything but.

Plywood painted white covered the wreckage at all exits and entry points to Glorietta 2, which was the center of the blast that left nine people dead and more than a hundred others injured.

BACK TO/ A9

DEADLY BLAST. A digitally stitched image from two photographs shows the entire expanse of the three-story-high Glorietta 2 lobby, the scene of the horrific explosion on Friday. The bomb ripped through the mall's three floors, blasted open the roof of the building, destroyed shop windows and cement walls, sending debris crashing onto parked cars. DAVE VERIDIANO/CONTRIBUTOR

## Cool under fire? It's all in your head

CHICAGO—A MECHANISM IN THE brain may explain why some people keep their cool and others crumble under stress, according to US researchers.

"We have identified the ways in which the brain naturally copes with chronic stressful experiences," said Dr. Vaishnav Krishnan of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, whose study appeared in the journal Cell.

Psychologists have long understood that some people are more vulnerable than others to stress, which

COOL UNDER/ A9

## Bishops, Islamic leaders condemn Makati attack

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERence of the Philippines yesterday condemned the bomb attack in Glorietta 2 and asked the faithful to join the group in prayer for the problems besetting the country.

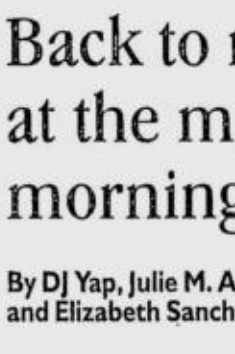
The Darul Ifta (House of Opinion) in Mindanao, a collegial body of Islamic scholars and religious leaders, also expressed its own outrage.

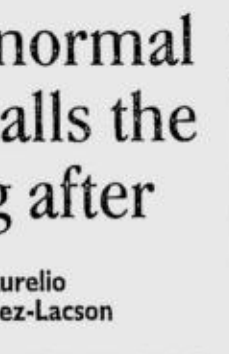
In a statement, the CBCP extended its condolences to the grieving families and said it was praying that another such occurrence would not happen again.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, Iloilo, the CBCP president, said the bomb attack had diverted the country's concentration. "We invite everybody to join us in praying for the solution of the many crises that our country is facing today," he said.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales also condemned the attack at a Mass for the archdiocese's general pastoral assembly at the La Salle Greenhills gym.

BISHOPS/ A8


PAREDES


ORTEGA


ANDRES

## UST, Letran alumni up for beatification

By Lito B. Zulueta

IN THE BIGGEST BEATIFICATION EVER IN history, Pope Benedict XVI will beatify on Oct. 28, a total of 498 martyrs of the communist persecutions during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s, a number of them Spanish Dominicans who had either taught or studied at the University of Santo Tomas and the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila.

Leading the UST Dominicans is Fr. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, who had retired as master general of the Dominican Order in Rome when he was executed by the communists in Madrid on Aug. 12, 1936. Paredes had taught political law at the UST Faculty of Civil Law and edited Libertas, the daily newspaper published by UST during the first years of the American occupation.

Also to be beatified are Fr. Jesus Villaverde

UST, LETRAN/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

### WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent rains over the Bicol region which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Mostly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Mostly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Mostly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Mostly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Mostly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Mostly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Mostly Cloudy |

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/10/20/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

**EZ2** 6 24 | 5 3 6 6 6 2 (In exact order)

**SIX DIGIT** Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening 7 1 3 | 3 9 6

**6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN** 14 30 34 38 40 41

**₱13,601,869.20**

# Oil firms hike prices by 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD OIL PRICES HIT A RECORD $90 PER barrel, local oil firms decided to raise pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and liquefied petroleum gas prices by 56 centavos a kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. started the round of price hikes at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Petron Corp. and Total Phil. at 6 a.m. and Chevron Phil. at noon.

Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Corp. announced their increased prices today at 12.01 a.m. and 6 a.m., respectively. Seaoil Phil. will be implementing its own increases at 6 a.m. tomorrow.

Petron said the increase in the price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude in September was equivalent to a P1.85 per liter increase at the pump.

It said that since September price movements now totaled P1.34 a liter for gasoline and P1.78 a liter for diesel and kerosene, not including the 12-percent VAT.

The company said it has so far increased LPG prices by P3 a kilogram, exclusive of VAT. This was enough to cover the change in the international contract price of LPG this month, Petron said.

The international contract price of LPG skyrocketed to $652.50 per metric ton (MT) this month, surpassing the peak price of $625.50 per MT recorded in February 2006.

In September, the LPG contract price was placed at only $570 per MT.

The latest fuel price hike was the 14th for the year for gasoline for a total of P7.50 a liter and the 11th for diesel and kerosene for a total of P5.50 a liter.

Since the start of 2007, LPG prices have risen 10 times for a total of P6.16 a kg, but have also gone down seven times for a total of P3.36 a kg, including VAT.

The latest round of price hikes brought the price of premium unleaded gasoline to between P41.07 and P43.77 a liter, diesel to between P34.60 and P37.12 a liter, kerosene to between P38.15 and P42.30 a liter, and 11-kg LPG cylinders to between P498.92 and P551.43.

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES whoops it up with parents Alex and Marixi Prieto and other relatives and friends. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## *It's Tessa in 'Celebrity Duets'*

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES, INQUIRER columnist, still thought of herself last night as the underdog, even after winning "Celebrity Duets," a reality singing contest among celebrity non-singers on GMA 7.

"I never claimed to be a good singer," she said.

So, why did Valdes top the competition, besting finalists Dr. Hayden Kho Jr. and Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz?

Host Regine Velasquez said it was probably because "Tessa was just having fun. She knows her strengths and weaknesses as a performer."

Judge Mitch Valdes agreed: "She was very wise in her song selections. She picked those songs that took into consideration her limitations. Even when she took risks, it was still within the bounds of her personality."

The contestants performed weekly with professional singers. The program is a concept of Fremantle Media, "Idol" franchise holder. This is the first round of "Duets" in the Philippines.

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment, dubbed Valdes as the "popular" choice. "Viewers (who voted via SMS) loved her," Galvante said. "They could see she exerted effort in rehearsing and preparing her costumes."

Host Ogie Alcasid pointed out, "This is a show for the audience. The viewers chose the winner."

Fellow finalist Bunevacz revealed that she herself had been rooting for Valdes. "She is donating all her cash prize to charity. I admire her for that," Bunevacz said.

Valdes is distributing her P1 million prize to 10 charity institutions, including Street Pals, Sisters of Mary, the PGH Pediatric Ward, White Cross, Assumption Batch '81 Foundation, Gifts and Graces and Assumption Mission Schools.

Kho also insisted that he was happy about the results. "Had I or Jessica won, there might be intrigues," he said.

Valdes reiterated that her secret was not to have high expectations.

"My only goal was not to be the first to be eliminated," Valdes quipped. "I was always in the bottom two throughout this 13-week competition."

Her husband Dennis Valdes; her parents, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and husband Alex; and sister, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez were all present at the finals last night.

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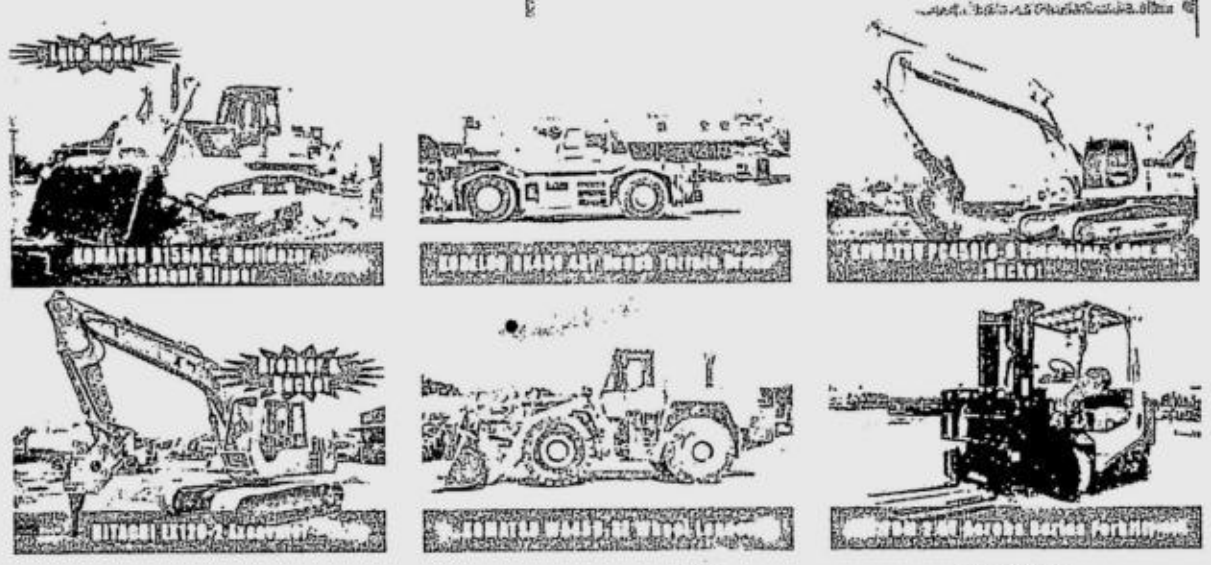

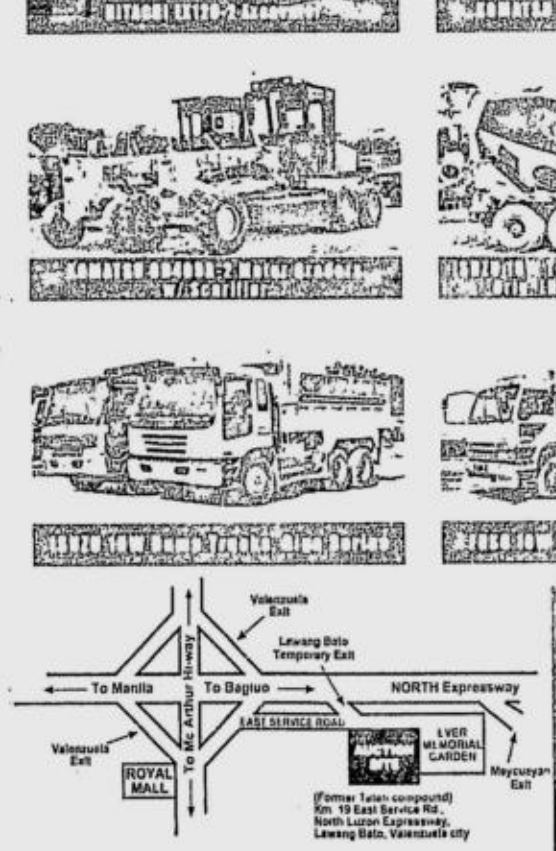


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## DOH turns to Congress on baby milk

By Beverly T. Natividad

AFTER WINNING only a partial victory in the Supreme Court, the Department of Health is turning to Congress to advance its campaign to promote breastfeeding as a better alternative to infant formula.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the DOH will no longer seek a reconsideration of the Supreme Court decision nullifying three of the 56 provisions of the National Milk Code's revised implementing rules and regulations (RIRR).

One of the sections that the high court struck down was the absolute prohibition on infant formula ads.

"We may not have gotten what we wanted entirely by failing to effect an outright ban on formula milk advertising, but this is not a dead end," said Duque.

Duque said the DOH would instead propose changes to the Milk Code and also support the passing of new laws on breastfeeding, now pending in Congress, that will better reflect the government's intent in seeking to protect the health of mothers and infants.

# Cha-cha must come with leadership reform–JDV

By Norman Bordadora

LEADERSHIP REFORMS HAVE TO COME hand in hand with constitutional change, said House Speaker Jose de Venecia in the wake of President Macapagal-Arroyo's move to revive Charter change.

De Venecia said he will propose to the President that a "moral revolution" be made corollary to constitutional reforms.

"People are saying that there is nothing wrong with the Constitution, that the only problem is the people running the government," De Venecia said in an interview.

"One, you have to reform the leadership. Two, you have to change the system. You need both," he said.

## Roadmap to federalism

To the President's announcement last week that she was forming a panel to draft "a roadmap to federalism by 2012," De Venecia said Congress will only be able to address Charter change after the passage of key economic bills around the end of the year.

Last week, the Speaker announced that he would be submitting to the President soon his idea of a "government of moral revolution," suggesting drastic measures that she could adopt to cleanse government and society of corruption.

He said what is needed is "a new government made up of competent men with integrity" and proposed that an "impartial body" could suggest to the President who among her present officials should go and who should replace them.

## Not a challenge

"I am very hopeful that she will respond positively. I don't even call it a challenge. She has to use the vast powers of the presidency to address corruption," De Venecia said.

"She has the power. We can only wish for change ... This proposal will save the country," he added.

De Venecia fears that military adventurists might take advantage of the controversies over reports of money gifts distributed to legislators and governors in Malacañang and the alleged irregularities in the national broadband network project and try to grab power.

"That's bad. Our economy will go down. Our economic gains will go to waste if a junta takes over," De Venecia said.

He said he has already consulted with Baptist bishops regarding his anticorruption proposal and would soon be consulting the Catholic bishops also.

He said his proposal includes a national council that will identify which officials will have to be removed and who will replace them.

## Not the one to initiate

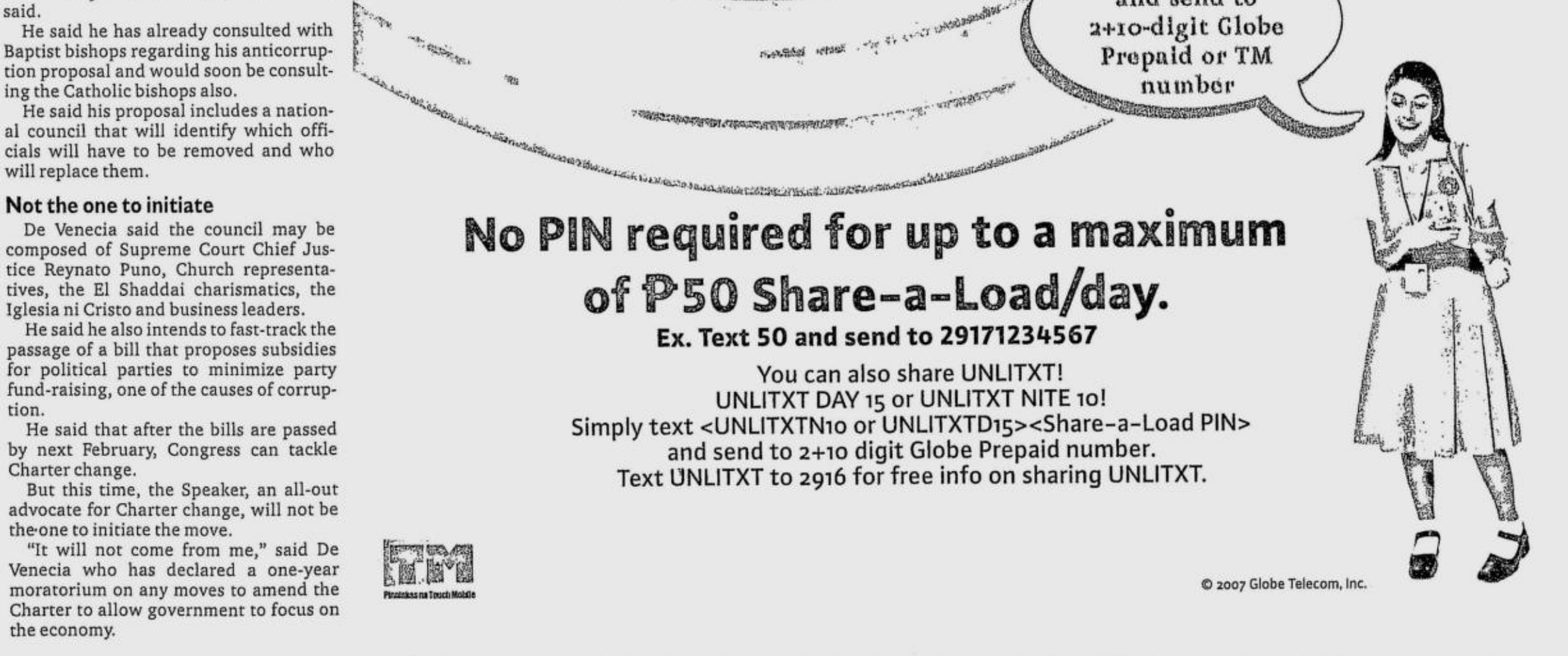
De Venecia said the council may be composed of Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno, Church representatives, the El Shaddai charismatics, the Iglesia ni Cristo and business leaders.

He said he also intends to fast-track the passage of a bill that proposes subsidies for political parties to minimize party fund-raising, one of the causes of corruption.

He said that after the bills are passed by next February, Congress can tackle Charter change.

But this time, the Speaker, an all-out advocate for Charter change, will not be the one to initiate the move.

"It will not come from me," said De Venecia who has declared a one-year moratorium on any moves to amend the Charter to allow government to focus on the economy.



# Torture claims mar beatification of martyr

By Jerome Aning

THE SCHEDULED BEATIFICATION OF A Spanish Augustinian friar who died as a martyr during the Spanish Civil War has stirred a minor controversy due to allegations of torture when he was a young missionary in the Philippines.

Fr. Gabino Olaso Zabala OSA, who will be proclaimed a Catholic martyr by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 28 for having died "in odium fidei" (a Latin phrase meaning "in hatred of the faith," turned out to have been guilty of torture during a much earlier period in his life.

Zabala was one of the 98 Augustinian priests and seminarians executed by Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War.

Fr. Mariano Dacanay, a Filipino priest from Aringay, La Union, who was imprisoned by Spanish authorities in Vigan in September 1896 shortly after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, said Zabala was among those who tortured him.

Dacanay, four other priests and five seminarians were accused of being part of a "Tagalog conspiracy" to bring the revolution to the Ilocos and assassinate leading Spanish government officials and clergy.

## Guardia Civil

They were imprisoned in a seminary run by the Augustinians in Vigan and interrogated by the Guardia Civil, the dreaded Spanish police.

Rey Asis, co-convenor of the human rights group Karapatan, told the INQUIRER that the postulator, or promoter of Zabala's beatification should have taken into account Zabala's activities in the Philippines.

"We think the beatification might be used to justify the State's use of torture against its enemies, and send a message that the Roman Catholic Church condones torture," Asis said.

But Caloocan bishop Deogracias Yñiguez defended the beatification, saying that in Catholic theology, a martyr's sins are considered expunged if he or she dies because of the faith.

"Once you are killed because of your faith, you make a supreme act of sacrifice that forgives all your sins," he told the INQUIRER.

In 1896, the Spanish colonial government, faced by the Katipunan-instigated uprising, detained hundreds of suspected revolutionaries, tortured them, and executed or exiled them after summary trials.

Dacanay's account of his two-week ordeal, preserved at the Dominican and Jesuit archives, were earlier brought to light by historians John N. Schumacher SJ and William Henry Scott, an Episcopalian missionary.

The priest recounted that on Oct. 28, 1896 while he was tied to a bamboo pole and being beaten up by the Guardia Civil, Zabala and other high-ranking Augustinian friars came and watched "with visible signs of pleasure."

"They even went to the extent of encouraging the guards to treat me more cruelly—Father Gabino Olaso, for one... And when I fell over due to the blows and the fatigue, rolling over on the floor, they added to my sufferings by kicking me roughly as if I were a football.

## Sent to Bilibid

"When I fell, I struck my head against a post, causing a wound. Another time I rolled over near Father Gabino, who was pacing quietly around the room, and he gave me another tremendous kick in the head which completely stunned me."

Dacanay and the others were then shipped to Manila and imprisoned at the Bilibid.

The so-called "Nine Clergy of Nueva Segovia" (named after their diocese, which is based in Vigan), were released in April the following year for lack of evidence.

Zabala was captured in Aparri, Cagayan, in August 1898 by Filipino revolutionists led by Gen. Simeon Villa, Emilio Aguinaldo's chief of staff.

He was incarcerated in the convent of Aparri church and beaten by Filipino revolutionaries. After a year and a half, he was released and allowed to return to Manila and then to Spain.

Noted vaticanologist John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter said Zabala's being a willing participant in torture "may be disconcerting."

## Mixed message

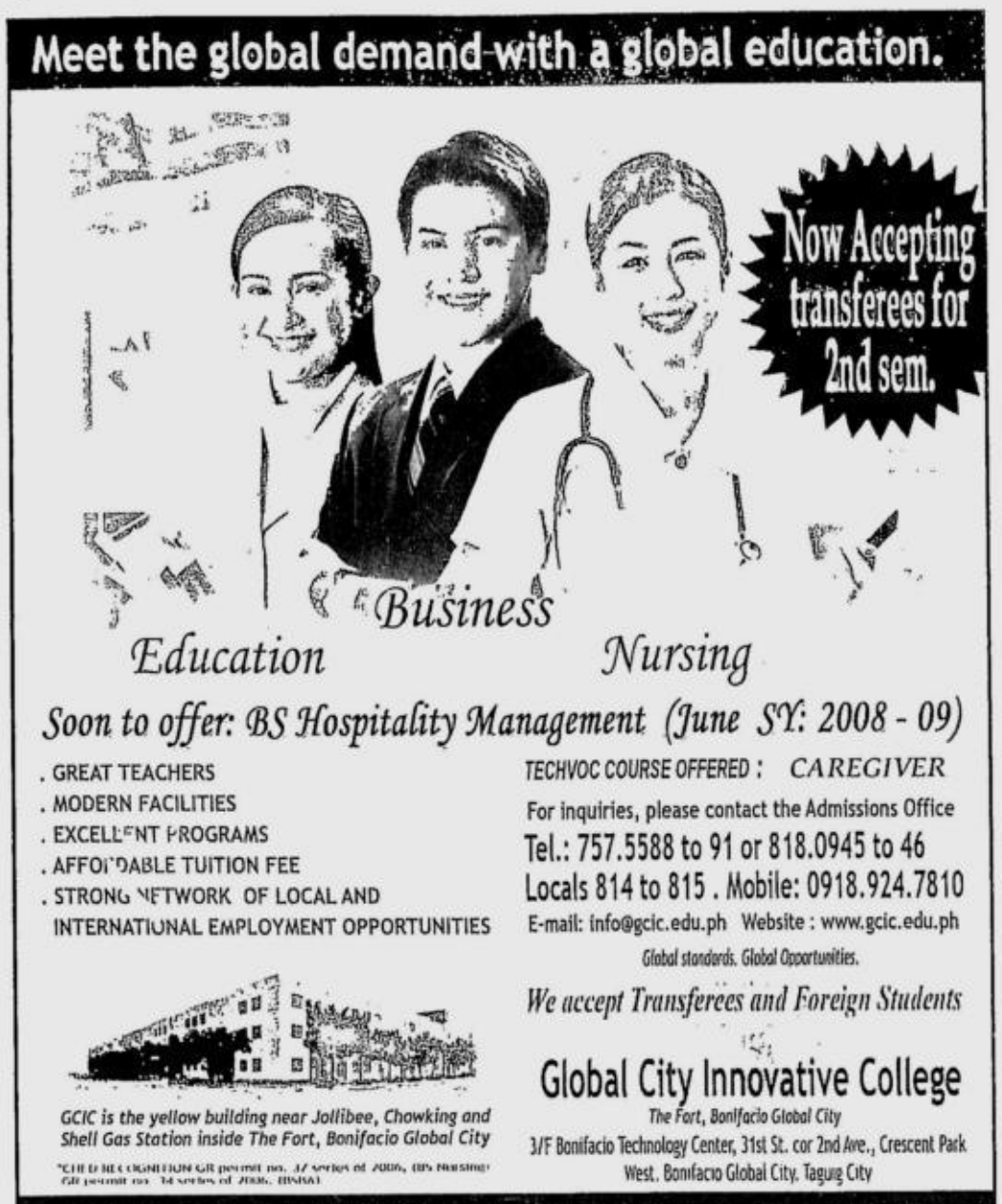
"In the first place for Filipinos, who see the 1896 rebellion as a key moment in the birth of their nation; and more broadly for those concerned with contemporary moral and legal debates over torture, especially in the context of the 'war on terrorism,'" he said in his weekly column.

Allen said that despite clear official Catholic teaching against torture, a few people may wonder if the Vatican was sending a mixed message by beatifying someone who apparently administered torture himself.

Zabala's beatification also triggered a "blog war" in cyberspace among people interested in Church affairs and human rights.

One Filipino blog "ExpectoRants" said the issue highlighted the acts of cruelty committed by the Spanish clergy, as satirized by national hero Dr. Jose Rizal in his two novels, "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo."

Another blog "The Spy in the Sandwich" asked, "If he eventually becomes a saint, will he be the patron saint of torturers? I just watched Amy Berg's 'Deliver Us From Evil,' and it is times like these that you simply have to wonder where the Church is going..."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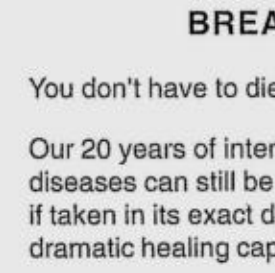

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# UST, Letran alumni up for beatification

From page A1

Andres, who had been dean of the Faculty of Sacred Theology in UST and later, rector of Letran-Manila; Fr. Antonio Varona Ortega, who had been a professor of Letran; and Fr. Inocencio Garcia Diez, who had taught at Letran in Cagayan (now defunct).

Other Philippine-based Spanish Dominicans to be beatified had finished their theological studies at UST—Fathers Pedro Ibanez Alonso, Manuel Moreno Martinez, Maximino Fernandez Marinas and Jose Ma. Lopez Carillo.

Also to be beatified is Augustinian Fr. Gabino Olaso Zabala, who used to be based in Ilocos.

Zabala's impending beatification has caused a minor controversy when it was alleged he had condoned the torture in Vigan of Fr. Mariano Dacanay, a Filipino priest who was suspected by Spanish colonial authorities of having sympathies with Filipino revolutionaries. *(See story on this page.)*

But Vatican authorities have cited previous cases in which martyrs who might have committed wrongdoings before were nonetheless beatified because of their heroic deaths. Biblically, St. Paul the Apostle was a persecutor of the early Christians—he led the stoning of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr—before he converted and himself died a martyr.

Zabala himself was imprisoned and beaten by Filipino revolutionaries. Meanwhile, Dacanay was reinstated to the ministry by Archbishop Bernardino Nozaleda, a Dominican who was the last Spanish archbishop of Manila.

## 'Glorious chapter'

Out of the 498 candidates for beatification, two are bishops, 24 diocesan priests, 462 members of religious institutes, two deacons; one a seminarian, and seven lay people.

Of the 462 religious, 74 are Dominicans, 21 of them coming from the Holy Rosary Province of Spain, the biggest province of the Dominican Order with missions, churches, priories and schools in three continents—Europe, South America and Asia.

Of the 21 Dominicans, eight had worked or studied at one time or another in the Philippines.

"This beatification is the most numerous in the history of the Church," said Fr. Pedro Tejero, a Spanish Dominican who is spiritual director at the UST Central Seminary. "The martyrdoms are a glorious chapter in the history of the Church of Spain."

Himself a survivor of the persecutions, Tejero was a 16-year-old Dominican seminarian when nine of the priests in his community, including Paredes, were killed. "For three years, I experienced living in fear under the communists, who undertook that terrible persecution," he said.

Although popular accounts call the victims martyrs of the Spanish Civil War, which is a sensitive issue in European history, Tejero cautioned against calling them as such.

"These martyrs are not martyrs of the Spanish Civil Wars, which started in 1936," he explained. "Rather, they are martyrs of the religious persecution in Europe from 1933 to 1937 that was initiated by communist groups."

While the Spanish Civil War continues to rankle and divide Spaniards and historians, Tejero said the beatification should pave the way for reconciliation.

"These beatification rites would serve as a sort of stimulus for the renewal of Christian life and the promotion of the spirit of reconciliation. These martyrs died while forgiving their murderers," he said.

## Philippine delegation

As if to emphasize the Philippine connection of the martyrs, a number of Filipino Dominicans and Philippine-based Spanish Dominicans will attend the beatification ceremonies at St. Peter's Square, which will be presided by Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Holy See's Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The group will be led by Fr. Fidel Villarroel, the UST archivist and historian who wrote the *positio,* or cause for beatification, of the 74 Dominicans to be beatified.

Villarroel is well-known in Philippine Church circles for having also done the *positio* for St. Lorenzo Ruiz and his fellow martyrs. Ruiz is the first and only Filipino saint.

Beatification, Villarroel wrote in his book on San Lorenzo Ruiz, is "a declaration of the Church that a dead person, judging from his or her heroic life, is proposed to Christians for local veneration or limited cult as a model of virtuous living and as an intercessor and advocate for them before God."

Beatification is expected to lead to canonization, in which the cult of the blessed is widened so as to include the universal Church.

While no miracle is required for a martyr to be beatified, at least one miracle is needed for her to be canonized.

## Other Philippine-based saints

The Oct. 28 beatification won't be the first time that martyrs who had at one time or another worked in the Philippines will be beatified.

Other canonized saints who had worked in the Philippines include the Spanish Franciscan St. Pedro Bautista, the first bishop of Caceres (Bicol) who was later martyred in Nagasaki, Japan, in the 17th century; and the Tonkinese Dominican St. Vicente Liem de la Paz, an alumnus of Letran and UST who was beheaded during the anti-Christian persecutions in Tonkin (Vietnam) in the 18th century.

Many of Lorenzo Ruiz's Dominican companions who were martyred along with him in Nagasaki in the 17th century were teachers or students of UST—the Spanish Fr. Antonio Gonzales, acting rector of UST; the French Fr. Guillermo Courtet, professor of theology at UST; Fr. Miguel de Aozaraza, who did missionary work in Bataan; and the Japanese Fr. Vicente Shiwozuka de la Cruz.

"The new set of martyrs should really be examples to the Philippines and to UST, which has a number of great martyrs in the past," Tejero said.

"They should be examples of fortitude in faith in fajth during the time of materialism and forgetfulness of God."

## Post-Christian Europe

In his book on the Spanish Civil War, Hugh Thomas estimates that there were at least 6,861 Catholic martyrs.

Tejero said it was possible that as many as 10,000 would be beatified.

The series of beatifications of the Spanish martyrs in recent years has served to check the popular but lopsided view fostered by Pablo Picasso's "Guernica," romantic accounts of the killing of Federico Garcia Lorca, Ernest Hemmingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and George Orwell's "Homage to Catalonia" that the Spanish Civil War was a conflict between the democratic and freedom-loving republicans and the iron-fisted and promonarchy "fascist" nationalists led by Generalissimo Franco, who emerged triumphant.

Many of the Republicans were communists who were violently anticlerical and anti-Church. Despite their call for international support, the Republicans did not get backing from Western nations because of their atrocities.

Only the Soviet Union and Mexico, which had also carried out anti-Christian persecutions that executed the clergy and religious, torched churches and nearly wiped out Catholicism in the South American country, heeded the call of the Republicans.

To John Paul II and his successor, Benedict XVI, the persecutions during the Spanish Civil War indicated the coming post-Christian Europe that was totalitarian in its secularism and hatred of religion.

Both Popes have criticized the loss of the Christian roots of European civilization, underscored by their losing campaign to have Christianity or "God" be recognized in the constitution of the European Union.

Benedict XVI has always referred to the spiritual, cultural and social malaise afflicting Europe. Shortly before he was elected Pope, he wrote a book titled, "Without Roots: Europe, Relativism, Christianity, and Islam."

# Security tightened in all ports

By Tina G. Santos

ALL PORTS OF ENTry in the country have been placed under heightened alert following a powerful explosion that killed nine people at a mall in Makati City.

Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan has directed all BI personnel assigned at all points of entry to be watchful, particularly of suspicious-looking individuals, and be diligent in performing their duties and responsibilities.

"Any doubt or reasonable suspicion on a person, movement or document should be examined and immediately reported to bureau authorities for appropriate action," he said.

Lt. Senior Grade Armand Balilo, Philippine Coast Guard spokesperson, said that its personnel have already increased vigilance and intensified intelligence gathering.

"We've started to increase visibility with quick reaction team and sea marshals at South and North Harbor," Balilo said.

The National Bureau of Investigation has deployed technical experts to assist the police in the investigation of the bombing incident which injured over 100 people.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said all NBI operatives and intelligence agents are on alert for another possible terror attack.

Last Friday's explosion has prompted authorities to tighten security in all vital installations in Metro Manila.

Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales said additional policemen have been deployed to secure vital installations in the metropolis.

He said security measures were also beefed up at the United States Embassy along Roxas Boulevard, the Pandacan Oil Depot, Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations, bus terminals, malls and other crowded places in the city.

## 3rd Rizal library conference

THE RIZAL LIBRARY Conference Committee invites librarians, library educators, archivists, and information professionals to the "Third Rizal Library International Conference," scheduled on Oct. 22-23 at the Escaler Hall, Science Education Complex, Ateneo de Manila University.

The conference program is designed to encourage and appreciate the exchange of ideas and experiences on strategic plans that ensure the responsiveness and relevance of libraries, librarians and information professionals, and to examine how stakeholders create and manage library road maps in a constantly changing society.


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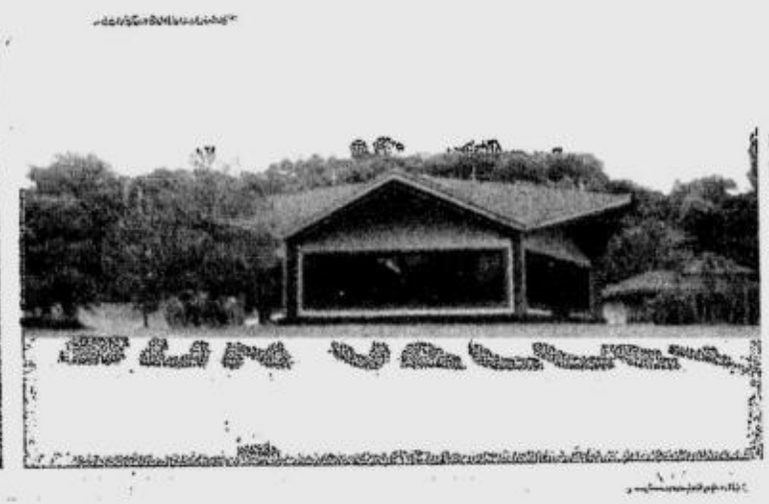

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## Correction

IN THE OCT. 16 issue, a photo in Maurice Arcache's column "Without Batting an Eyelash" on Page C2 of the Lifestyle section carried the erroneous caption: "Tall, handsome Joey Server with the Carolina Herrera 212 Splash." The caption should have read: "For David Nugent, Gucci Pour Homme II."

# Teodoro stresses unity in military

**By Nikko Dizon and Vincent Cabreza,**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—Amid fresh rumors of destabilization in military ranks, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., yesterday exhorted the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Cadet Corps to be "advocates of unity and oneness" and to uphold the honor code against cheating and lying.

In his speech during the elite military school's 109th Foundation Day, Teodoro did not refer to political divisions that have produced several waves of coup plotters from among PMA-trained officers since a military reform movement first made its appearance on its campus in the mid-80s. He alluded to the alleged schism in military ranks between the PMAers and who rose from the reservist force and other military training institutions.

"You must reach out when you go to the fold of the mainstream Armed Forces. To your brother or sister officers who may not come from this institution, put an arm around them and say 'We are one. We are no different from each other. I will judge you on the basis of how you act, how you think and not where you come from,'" Teodoro said.

Teodoro, a reservist Air Force colonel, said that this would take "a lot of humility."

"And I know because of your love for country and your dedication to your duty to your country, you will take the first step in unifying each and every one in the Armed Forces," he said.

Teodoro talked of the changing defense and security environment and the need for military officers to learn new competencies to deal with terrorism and other emerging threats.

The Glorietta mall bombing, he said, was a terrorist attack that the government had not anticipated.

Teodoro told cadets to start learning new skills that would ensure that mistakes like these would never be repeated.

Teodoro said he was confident PMA cadets would be able to cope with changes because they are bound by PMA's "honor code" system.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 21, 2007
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1st Reading:** **Exodus 17:8-13**

Victors of Israel.

When the Israelites were at Rephidim, the Amalekites came and attacked them. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites in the morning. As for me, I will stand with God's staff in my hand at the top of the hill."

Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had directed, while Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. It happened that when Moses raised his hands, the Israelites would win but when he lowered them, the Amalekites would have the advantage.

As Moses' arms grew weary they placed a stone for him to sit on while Aaron and Hur on either side held up his arms which remained steadily raised until sunset. For his part Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the sword.

**2nd Reading:** **2 Timothy 3:14-4:2**

All Scripture is inspired by God.

As for you, continue with what you have learned and what has been entrusted to you, knowing from whom you received it. Besides, you have known the Scriptures from childhood; they will give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, refuting error, for correcting and training in Christian life. Through Scripture the man of God is made expert and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by the hope I have of his coming and his kingdom, I urge you to preach the Word, in season and out of season, reproving, rebuking or advising, always with patience and providing instruction.

**Gospel:** **Luke 18:1-8**

Persistence in prayer.

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should pray continually and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying: 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice; then she will stop coming and wearing me out.'"

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**Commentary**

*Amalek wages war against the Israelites. Joshua is the leader in the battle while Moses stands on a high place and lifts his staff high. As long as his arms are raised the Israelites are winning and when he weakens, they too begin to weaken. Aaron and Hur help hold up his arms so that the Israelites can finally conquer their enemies. What if this image of prayer was used, not to wage war, but to stop it now. Jesus' followers are never to harm or kill another as they practice loving one another as God has loved us in Jesus. We must read the Scriptures with faith—through the eyes of God in Jesus—and use it as reproof, correction and training in holiness; not to shore up our own convictions or to make points against another. This is our work, the work of God entrusted to us—to make the world holy.*

*We are to pray always and not lose heart. There is nothing that cannot be brought about by prayer: a world with no war, a world of justice and reconciliation, where all peoples' needs for survival and life are taken care of, a world where there is no hatred and animosity, no matter how diverse we are. But we must learn that we are not so much like the widow (who is God) but we are much more like the unjust judge and that God is intent on calling us to justice and conversion. But will we ever learn? When our God comes, will he find any faith among those who claim to be his own?*

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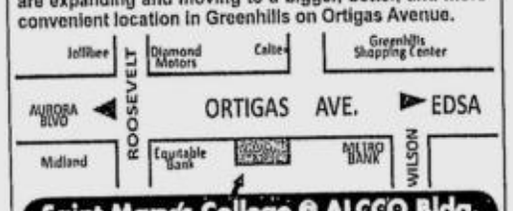


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# PhilHealth says it's healthy

By Beverly T. Natividad

AMID CALLS TO INvestigate its funds, the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. has maintained that it is financially sound and can still pay for its members' medical bills.

In a briefing, PhilHealth officer in charge Lorna Fajardo said the agency's reserve funds totaled P69 billion and was very liquid.

She added that the fraudulent claims spreading fears that PhilHealth's funds were diminishing were also being closely monitored so as not to affect the agency's coffers.

Last week, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) asked the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit (COA) to look into the finances of PhilHealth given reports of losses due to spurious claims.

"There is no telling how much money PhilHealth is actually losing ... but it is estimated to be easily anywhere from P200 million to P400 million every year," said TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar in a statement.

He said syndicates are robbing PhilHealth members by making overstated claims such as P30,000 for a simple cataract surgery that costs only P7,000.

## UK warns citizens on travel to RP

THE UNITED KINGdom has cautioned its citizens about traveling to the Philippines in the wake of the Glorietta 2 mall bombing last Friday, advising them that there was "a high threat from terrorism throughout the Philippines."

The advisory said that terrorist groups in the Philippines continued to plan attacks and have the capacity and the intent to carry out these attacks at any time and anywhere in the country.

"Attacks could be indiscriminate and against civilian targets in public places, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers," the UK government said.

It advised against "all travel to Mindanao due to ongoing terrorist activities in the region," the advisory said.

It said there were frequent terrorist attacks against civilian targets throughout Mindanao, the most recent of which was the Aug. 3, 2007 twin bombings inside a bus and another in a bus terminal in Koronadal City, South Cotabato province.

The advisory, which was posted on the British Embassy website, warned UK citizens against traveling to Sulu, particularly Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo, where there are ongoing military and police operations against insurgent groups.

The UK also warned against the threat of kidnapping throughout the Philippines.

*Cynthia D. Balana*

## Ellinwood turns 100

THE UCCP-ELLINwood Malate Church (EMC), one of the oldest Protestant churches in Manila, marks its centennial founding anniversary today.

With the theme "Kindred in Christ: Keep the Covenant Til Kingdom Come," celebrations culminate with the unveiling of the historical marker from the National Historical Institute, the dedication of the Ellinwood Heritage Marker and Centennial Spire, and a Thanksgiving Worship at 9:30 a.m. where the six EMC congregations will converge.

Preachers for the service are retired pastor Rev. Dario Alampay, current EMC senior pastor Rev. Dr. Ruth Panganiban-Billena, and US-based pastor Rev. Emmanuel Orendain.

There will be a fellowship luncheon and variety show in the afternoon.

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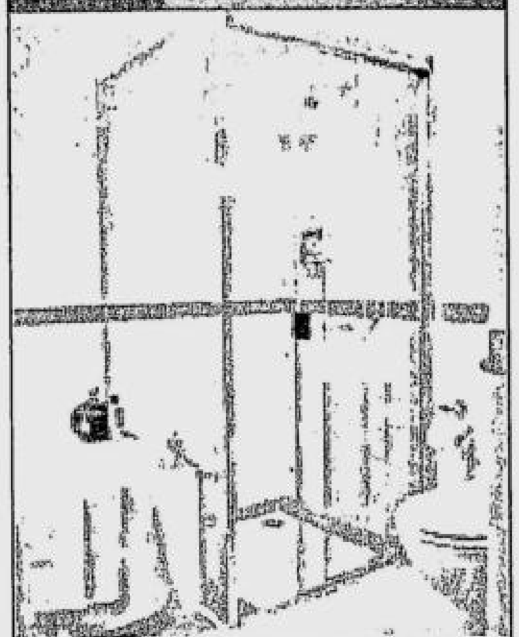

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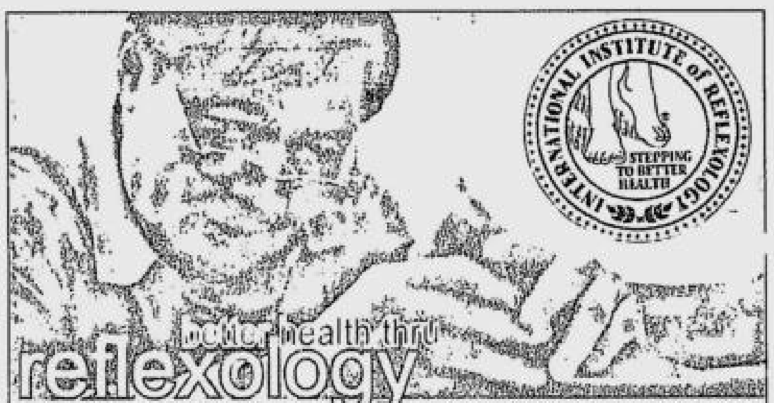


George Tay, representative of the International Institute of Reflexology (USA) in Asia, the healing authority of reflexology in the world, will be in Manila to conduct reflexology sessions on the Ingham Method of Reflexology from October 10 to 30. He will be focusing on spot reflexology for chronic ailments and discomfort, stroke patients who can stand but cannot walk, and fertility problems for couples. We are now accepting advance bookings for this limited engagement.
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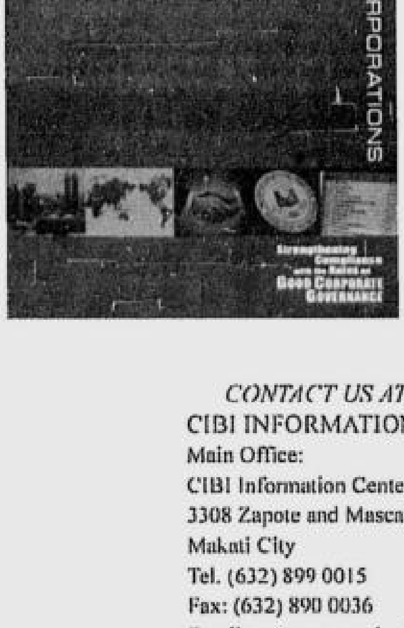


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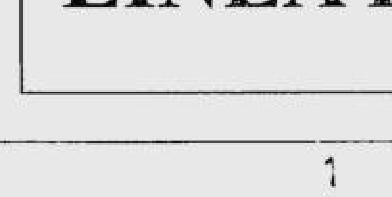

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# ₱3-M bounty on bomber

From page A1

Binay, who heads Makati Rescue.

Officials described the explosion that ripped through three floors of the Ayala Corp.-owned Glorietta 2 as "a terror attack."

Barias said the attack had killed as many as nine people, and that police had accounted for 92 injured. (The number of injured was earlier put at 119.)

Police found the ninth body beneath the collapsed structures near the elevator at 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Makati police chief, identified the victim as Rainier Tan, 50.

### Military ordnance

During a National Security Council briefing in Camp Crame yesterday morning that was presided over by Ms Arroyo, Chief Insp. Grace Eustaquio said traces of RDX—a main ingredient of of the C4 explosive used by the military—had been found at the site.

"It (RDX) is the main component of C4 and is a high explosive. As such, the extent of damage it can cause is really tremendous," said Eustaquio, head of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory's chemistry division.

Senior Supt. Albert Ferro of the PNP Bomb Data Center said that from 2005 and 2006 information, "we can presume those [explosives] are of military ordnance components. We presume that those explosives could be of that origin."

The statements of the two officers sparked a spirited discussion among Ms Arroyo and the police, military and Cabinet members present.

At one point in the discussion, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Armed Forces chief of staff, rose from his seat and whispered something to Ferro and Eustaquio. Barias also took his turn to confer with the two.

Reporters covering the meeting were not privy to what Esperon and Barias told the two officers.

### No suspect

Later in the day, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the INQUIRER that it was premature to say that a C4 type of bomb was used in the attack.

Esperon said no suspect had been pinpointed. Until that is done, he said, "I don't think it would be proper to be pointing to some persons as perpetrators. It would be very irresponsible to do that."

Ms Arroyo ordered PNP Director General Avelino Razon to check the source of the explosive used and pinpoint the perpetrators.

She said "regular information bulletins on the status" of the investigation were necessary.

Razon said Barias had been assigned to give the media regular updates. He also said investigators were continuing to sift through the rubble for more clues.

Later, Razon told reporters that investigators had yet to identify the person or group responsible for the explosion, but confirmed that it was a "terror attack."

Bomb experts corrected earlier reports that the blast came from a storeroom of the Luk Yuen restaurant.

The Philippine Bomb Data Center said the explosion in fact came from the basement of Glorietta 2 and it caused part of the first floor to cave in.

Ermita told the INQUIRER by phone that the PNP had yet to say whether terrorists or extremists were involved.

"But definitely, it is a terroristic attack," he said, adding that it was "done seemingly to take advantage of the situation amid political destabilization."

However, Ermita said, Malacañang and security officials were not keen on using the Human Security Act because of "so many caveats" in the law.

He said that for an attack to be tagged a work of terrorists, "somebody must claim they were the ones who did it and demand something" in return.

### List of fatalities

Liza Enriquez
Janine Marcos
Jose Allen de Jesus
Lester Peregrina
Anthony Marius Arroyo
Jee Anne de Gracia
Maria Celeste Cruz
Cesar Vidanes
Rainier Tan

Still missing are:
Ariel Gamboa
Maureen de Leon

*(Source: Supt. Sofia Mendoza, Fire Marshal, Southern Police District)*

**HEADS BOWED** and deep in thought, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Ayala patriarch Jaime Zobel de Ayala strike similar poses the day after the deadly blast. JOAN BONDOC/REM ZAMORA

"But nobody has come out to own up to the blast," Ermita said.

He denied receiving reports that the Rajah Solaiman Movement had owned up to the bombing and demanded the release of one Ahmad Santos.

"No such information. That was never brought out during the [command conference]," he said.

### 'Unusual'

Supt. Rhodel Sermonia, spokesperson of the NCRPO, said it was "unusual" that no group or individual had yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The NCRPO, along with the Special Action Force and the NCR Command, is still on red alert throughout Metro Manila.

Sermonia said Barias had ordered metrowide checkpoints and that possible threats to vital installations were being monitored.

He said the NCRPO was coordinating with security officials in Makati to augment the police and security forces in malls, bus terminals, MRT stations, oil depots and airports.

He assured the public that the NCRPO was "on top of the situation."

Cruz, the Makati police chief, said most of the dead and the injured were found at the lobby area near the Glorietta 2 entrance.

"There are still some personal belongings of the victims mixed with the rubble," he said.

### 'Controlled item'

During the briefing, Ms Arroyo asked Esperon if C4 explosives in the care of the AFP were secure.

Esperon said C4 was a "controlled item" and that there were similarities between TNT and RDX. "It's just that C4 is more compact," he said.

Vice President Noli de Castro asked if the two compounds had the same material. Esperon answered in the affirmative.

Ms Arroyo then asked if there was a possibility that investigators could find another ingredient besides C4.

Eustaquio said investigators might come up with more information. "But at this point, that is what we have in our lab."

A little later, De Castro went back to the C4 angle: "Let's just clarify what the PNP said because when you say C4, the military is the source. The news might come with something different. How can you differentiate an ordinary bomb from C4?"

Eustaquio said she did not say definitively that C4 had caused the Glorietta blast: "I said it's RDX, a main component of C4."

"So it's not C4?" De Castro asked.

"Not yet," Ms Arroyo said.

"RDX is what we want to say," Eustaquio said.

"OK. That is what we want to clarify," De Castro said.

RDX (research development explosive) is widely used in military and industrial applications. It is considered one of the most powerful of the military high explosives.

The explosive yield of TNT (trinitrotoluene) is considered the standard measure of strength of bombs and other explosives.

## *Blast makes no dent on investments—GMA*

By Michael Lim Ubac

HOURS AFTER FRIDAY'S Makati bombing, President Macapagal-Arroyo met the officials of the United States-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (US-Asean) business council and sought to allay whatever concerns they had about the business climate in the country.

Ms Arroyo, in turn, was assured by the officials of the council, led by Matthew Daley, that the Glorietta 2 Mall attack would not derail their investment plans in the Philippines.

"There was no definite agenda. She is just saying, 'I hope this won't affect business perception (of the Philippines). Everything is OK,'" Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said of the informal dinner Ms Arroyo hosted for the group.

### Instructions to embassies

"It seemed that the businessmen understood well the real situation in the country."

According to Ermita, Ms Arroyo instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs to inform the diplomatic corps and Philippine embassies around the world on the steps taken by the government to handle the incident.

Speaking yesterday during a command conference in Camp Crame, Ms Arroyo said the country was facing war on three fronts—"terrorism, rising global oil prices and continuing political turmoil."

"Against these (threats), we must be strong-willed, we must join hands," she said, urging citizens to be willing to make "sacrifices."

Upon the advice of her security officials, Ms Arroyo canceled all her activities for the weekend.

She had been scheduled to fly yesterday to Tacloban City and Ormoc City, where she was to lead the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Ormoc and attend other activities.

### Conclusive or not?

De Castro returned to the C4 issue, saying in Filipino: "Let's clarify—OK, in front of the media—that it's not conclusive if it's C4, RDX or simple dynamite."

To which Ms Arroyo interjected: "No, RDX [is] conclusive."

This was affirmed by Eustaquio.

De Castro again asked if investigators had found C4.

"Not conclusive [that it's] C4," Ms Arroyo said.

"OK, clarify that. This is RDX, not conclusive that it's C4?" De Castro said.

"We did not say C4, but RDX. That is the declaration of our findings—RDX," Eustaquio said.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, a former PNP chief, said many past bombings had involved the use of high explosives.

"I just want to clarify what the Vice President said—that if it's C4, it's the military that's involved," he said.

According to Mendoza, the men arrested for bomb attacks, including that on a SuperFerry, are not members of the military, and that C4 is also being used in mining because the PNP issues permits for it.

"So these explosives are available," he said.

### NSC meeting

Ermita said the President had ordered the convening of the entire National Security Council early next week to address the security problems triggered by the attack.

He said Senate President Manuel Villar and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. would be invited to the emergency meeting.

He said the national security adviser had been assigned to issue an invitation to former President Fidel Ramos.

The "regular members" of the NSC include the chairs of the defense committees of the House and Senate and, in some instances, the majority leaders of the two chambers. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

# Bishops, Islamic leaders condemn Makati blast

From page A1

He asked the faithful to pray for the dead and the wounded, as well as their families.

The bomb attack on Friday coincided with the call of Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, and Infanta Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

The three prelates—who stand as advisers to the group Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya—led the call for Ms Arroyo's resignation amid the controversies, including Malacañang's purported cash handouts to lawmakers and local officials on Oct. 11, hounding her administration.

While the three bishops said their call for Ms Arroyo's resignation did not represent the official Church stand on the issue, they said their move was a "call for action" following the CBCP's earlier statement that the administration lacked the moral ascendancy to govern.

### Justice

"The Muslim community in the Philippines condemns the bomb attack. It is the work of insane people," said Esmael Ebrahim, liaison officer of the Darul Ifta in Mindanao.

Ebrahim urged the government to bring justice to the victims of the explosion.

He also called on the military and the police to be circumspect in their investigation to prevent the illegal arrest of Muslims residing in Manila.

"There must be a thorough investigation of this matter, and they should not illegally arrest any of our innocent brothers," Ebrahim told the INQUIRER in Cotabato City.

The Darul Ifta has openly condemned terrorism in the past, including those involving the Abu Sayyaf.

"Islam is against terrorism," the group said in a statement issued last year at the height of the bombings in Central Mindanao.

### MILF offer

In an Agence France-Presse report, Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), offered help in tracking down the perpetrators.

Kabalu said the 12,000-strong group was "prepared to gather intelligence for the Philippine authorities if asked to do so."

"We would like to help out if asked. This could help the military at least eliminate some groups from its list of suspects," he said, adding that the offer was being made as a "sincere gesture" that could also help revive stalled peace talks.

MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal also expressed sympathy for the bombing victims.

"We express our condolences to the victims and their families who suffered from the explosion," he said.

Iqbal likewise cautioned the government against making conclusions without a thorough investigation. ***Reports from Beverly T. Natividad in Manila; Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao; AFP***

# Whodunit: 'Terror group' claims blast

From page A1

linked by security officials to the Abu Sayyaf Group. Police say the RSM—an urban-based group composed mostly of Muslim converts or "Balik Islam"—has been neutralized and is inactive since 2006.

The text message was sent to a senior reporter of the ABS-CBN television network yesterday morning.

A senior officer of the Philippine National Police doubted the claim.

"It would be easy to name RSM as the one behind the Glorietta bombing and I will not be surprised if suspects allegedly from RSM will be arrested, but no—that could not have been the handiwork of RSM," said the officer.

"It's a terror attack no doubt, but not RSM or any al-Qaida-linked group."

The officer, a counterterrorism expert, asked not to be identified, saying he is involved in the probe of the bombing and does not want the investigation jeopardized.

### Wrong scenario

Even the way the text message was composed is suspicious, said the officer.

"Why address it to the military? Did you see that in previous messages or statements made by the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) or the RSM? Compare it and you will see that it's not even close to the authentic statements made by real terrorist groups in the past," the officer said.

He added in Filipino: "Whoever drew up that scenario is wrong. He mixed revolutionary and Islamic (terms) and that is not correct ideologically. And if they really studied the personalities in RSM, Santos and Omar are enemies. Definitely, Omar will not ask for the release of Santos."

Santos, arrested in 2006 in Zamboanga, is detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig while Omar is at large and has a million peso reward money for his capture.

PNP intelligence sources claim Omar is Ruben Lavilla in real life and adopted the name Sheik Omar when he converted to Islam. He hails from Lambunao, Iloilo, is a former medical student at the University of the Philippines in Manila and studied shariah law in Madena, Saudi Arabia.

Omar is described as an articulate and passionate Islamic preacher. He was last known to be in the Middle East.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief Director Geary Barias said the PNP would have to verify if the RSM really issued statement claiming responsibility.

"Our intelligence will have to validate that because it might be a hoax," Barias told the INQUIRER.

In Davao City, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it was easy to know if the Abu Sayyaf was behind the Glorietta explosion.

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military relations chief, cited incidents in which the bandit group was involved—such as the bombing of the Superferry off Manila Bay in 2004—and "they immediately came out with a statement."

Kabalu urged authorities to dig deeper into the incident to determine who was really behind it.

### Trillanes claim

"It is a terrorist act, whoever is the perpetrator," Esperon told reporters. "He is terrorizing the people, but we don't know yet who is behind it."

Esperon rejected Sen. Antonio Trillanes' reported claim blaming him for Friday's carnage.

"It is alleged that I am the mastermind. It's very illogical that it would be me because [it is my job] to ensure the country's security," Esperon said.

"This is a political pronouncement of a politically biased person. But let's see, he might have a report," he said.

In his website (trillanes.com.ph), the detained former Navy lieutenant accused Esperon and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of perpetrating the bombing.

"This blast is most likely another tactic of the administration to divert public attention away from the controversies hounding GMA."

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., who was in Baguio City for the 109th Foundation Day of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), said the incident was "apparently a terrorist attack."

At the PMA, Teodoro asked for a moment of silence to remember those killed and injured in Friday's attack.

A security expert tied the Glorietta bombing to local extremists' bid to be recognized by international terror groups involved in the process of identifying which terrorist cells to fund.

### Robles' view

Retired Commodore Rex Robles told the INQUIRER that it was unlikely that the explosion was a "pseudo-destabilization" meant to divert attention from scandals rocking the government, saying the bombing's effect on public consciousness would only be "short term."

"If the Rajah Solaiman group is indeed a breakaway organization from a bigger group, then they need funding. It fits our description of a group that needs publicity to be recognized and to get better funding," Robles said in a telephone interview.

Robles said the al-Qaida network toward the end of the year would do "a sort of budget hearing" and identify which terror group to fund in certain regions based on its capability to launch terrorist attacks.

Robles said the only local groups capable of carrying out strong explosions, were the Abu Sayyaf, the MILF, the Moro National Liberation Front and special units of the Armed Forces.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday said the bombing at Glorietta could be a fund-raising operation of terrorists to get more funding from international supporters, and be a prelude to bigger attacks.

Speaking on radio, Gonzales said that real terrorists would not hesitate to hit innocent civilians and that the attack could be the work of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah group and its local supporter, the Abu Sayyaf.

He said his office had been receiving intelligence reports that Metro Manila was to be the next target of terrorist attacks. ***With reports from Alcuin Pap, Cynthia D. Balana, Dona Pazzibugan, Allan Nawal, Julie Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao***

# Back to normal at the malls the morning after

From page A1

Outside was evidence of more wreckage, including yellow "Do not cross" lines and steel railings blocking the entrance areas, Red Cross trucks, rescue workers, policemen and utility men in an assortment of uniforms.

Inside the mall, lighting was subdued throughout the central activity area and the air-conditioning was perceptibly weaker than usual.

Some stalls, mostly fast-food restaurants, in Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 did not open shop at all due to "utility issues," said officials of Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), the mall developer.

Based on estimates of patrons, shop stall owners and security personnel, the number of shoppers may have been cut by "more than 50 percent," although Ayala officials declined to give rough projections of decreases to their customer base.

Even so, customers still came, albeit in trickles.

### Small crowd

"My officemates warned me about coming here today. But I really doubt that something like that is going to happen twice in a row," Marie Lumbre, 29, an advertising executive, said.

She said she was surprised at the small crowd.

"I come here very often, and it's only now that the number of people was this small," she told the INQUIRER."

Edgar Tandoc, a private security guard for a clothing store, estimated that the number of people was cut by 75 percent from the usual Saturday crowd.

"Normally, the activity area would be filled with people especially on Friday and Saturday," he said.

He said only 111 customers had visited the shop he was guarding as of 5 p.m. yesterday, a far cry from the usual 300-400 walk-in patrons they get on a Saturday.

Helen Gamis, who works in a jewelry stall, reported the store had only two purchases as of 3 p.m., a sure sign that business was slow.

"On ordinary weekends, we would have had at least 10 customers by now. I think people are still afraid to go to the mall," Gamis said.

She recalled that after the Feb. 14, 2005, explosions in Makati City, the store's sales went down by half.

### P100-million damage

ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes said he could not give projections of business losses, as that was not "what we're concerned about at the moment."

"If there is a cut (in crowd numbers), we'll accept it. It's understandable that people are scared. But what we want to assure them is that they're still safe here," he said.

As to the damage to the mall itself, Reyes said a "very preliminary estimate" was P100 million, with 100 of their tenants affected.

### Men, dogs, detectors

ALI president Jaime Ayala yesterday said during a press conference at the Glorietta activity center, that Glorietta 2, which is the affected area, had been cordoned off as police investigations continue.

"We are beefing up the security here in Glorietta and in all Ayala malls. The public's safety and security are our paramount concern," the official told reporters yesterday.

From the usual contingent of 120 men, there would be an additional 20 percent patrolling Glorietta 1, 3 and 4.

Bomb-sniffing dogs were seen making the rounds of the Glorietta malls early yesterday afternoon, nearly 24 hours after the blast incident. This was in addition to the metal detectors at the mall entrances.

### Structurally sound

Ayala said a team of independent structural engineers from Aromin and Sy Associates inspected the site of the explosion Friday and yesterday morning and gave ALI the go-signal to open for business.

"After undergoing an extensive study of the premises, they have determined that Glorietta 1, 3 and 4's structural integrity is sound and gave us assurances that we will be able to resume normal mall operations for these areas today (Saturday). In this regard, we have determined that we can, in fact, resume normal operations for Glorietta 1, 3 and 4 this morning," he said.

Ayala added that the remaining malls were "structurally sound."

### Closed to the public

He was unable to give an estimate of the total amount of damage to Glorietta 2.

"We will open about 90 percent of Glorietta 2, while the remaining 10 percent will be off-limits pending police investigation," Ayala said.

The main lobby and the basement of Glorietta 2—where the blast reportedly originated—will remain closed to the public. Around 100 merchants will be affected by the partial closure.

"We have instructed all security personnel to continue to be vigilant and to continue to coordinate closely with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the local government of the City of Makati," Ayala said.

Meanwhile, ALI chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala visited the blast site late yesterday morning but did not give any statement. ***With reports from Kenneth M. del Rosario, Jeannette I. Andrade and Nancy Carvajal***

# Cool under fire? It's all in your head

From page A1

can lead to depression and even post-traumatic stress disorder.

But little is known about mechanisms in the brain that explain this vulnerability.

Krishnan and his colleagues set out to study this problem in mice that were exposed to stress.

What the researchers found was mice that were most vulnerable to stress had too much of a chemical in a region of the brain that processes reward signals.

The researchers also found a significant increase in this same chemical in humans with depression.

It turns out that resilient mice produce a kind of protective response that allows them to recover from stress. Vulnerable mice lack this defense.

### 'Active process'

"One of the major insights provided by this work is that resilience to stress is an active process," Dr. Eric Nestler of UT Southwestern said in a statement.

Nestler, Krishnan and their colleagues placed genetically similar mice into a cage with a large, aggressive mouse—basically a bully.

Then the researchers recorded the ability of the mice to interact socially, especially when exposed to other, more aggressive mice.

While some mice behaved timidly even 30 days after the bully encounter, others had shaken it off and were able to interact normally.

The researchers then looked at two of the brain's reward centers—the ventral tegmental area and the nucleus accumbens—to see if there were differences there. These areas are part of the reward circuit of the brain and are also known to be involved in fear conditioning.

What the researchers found is that neurons were firing rapidly in the stressed-out mice, releasing a nerve growth factor called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) that has been linked with poor coping skills.

Vulnerable mice showed an increase of BDNF in the nucleus accumbens; resilient ones did not.

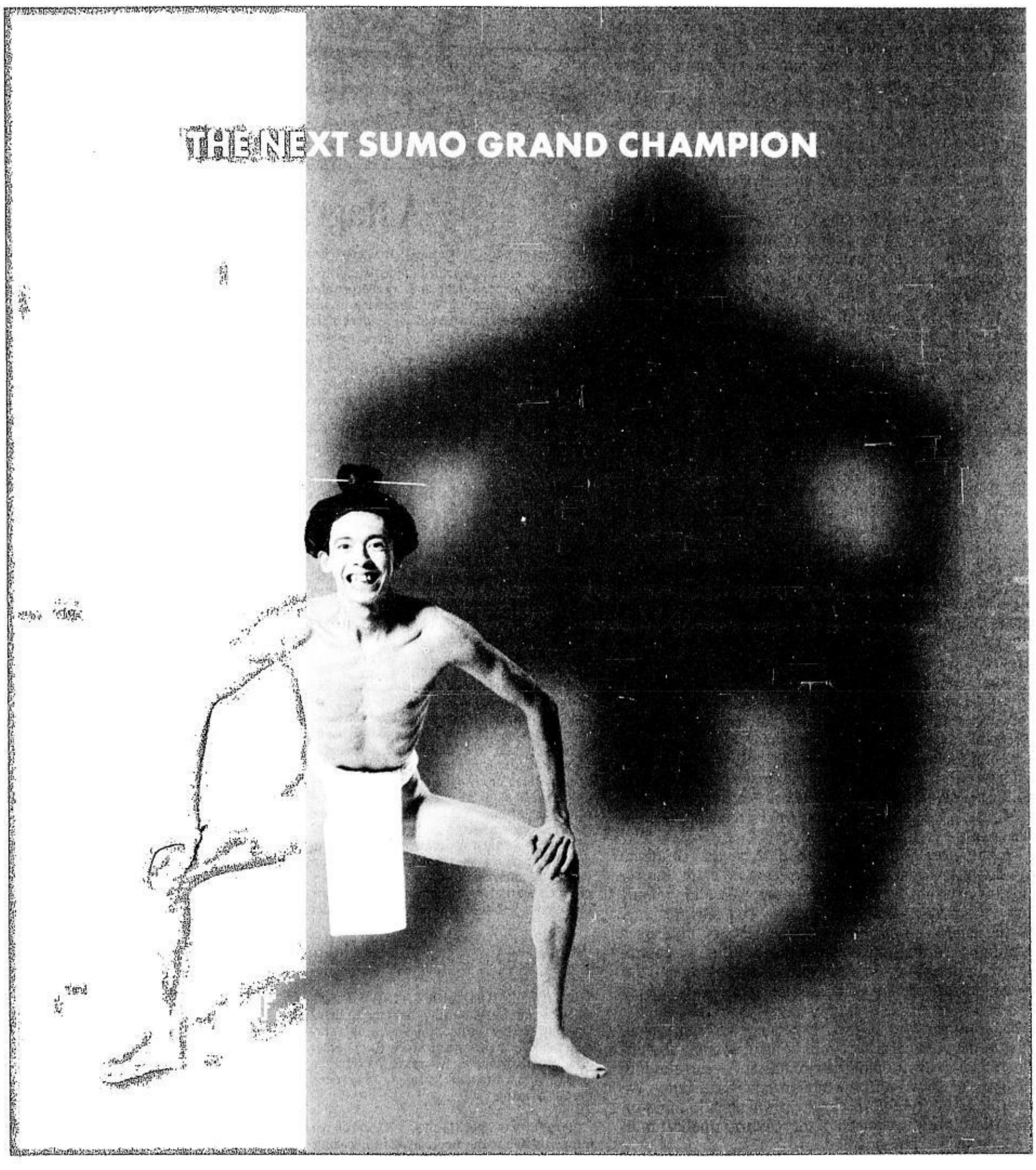
Resilient mice put the brakes on this excess neuron firing—and increased release of BDNF—by increasing the production of potassium channels, which govern the speed at which neurons fire.

### Important finding

Krishnan said the finding was important because the researchers also found high concentrations of BDNF in tissue taken from this same brain region in depressed people.

"It seems to be a signature of vulnerability to depression," Krishnan said.

The researchers think the finding might help lead to new therapies that build up resiliency in people. *Reuters*

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# OPINION

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## Resist

OUTRAGE AND A SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS ARE the handmaidens of terrorism. For the nine who died and whom the nation mourns, there was an explosion, then nothingness. For the scores who were injured, there was an explosion, then darkness, then panic and a stampede. For everyone—for those directly affected and for a stunned and horrified nation—there is the reckoning, the demand for an explanation—and action.

**EDITORIAL**

Mass murder boggles the mind, and in the quest to make sense of a senseless act, authorities and the public demand not just answers (to which we are all entitled) but, at times, even scapegoats (which only compounds the tragedy). The public's current unease can only get worse, as long as the public doesn't know who perpetrated last Friday's "Glorietta bombing." The 24-hour mark passed, yesterday, with no one claiming responsibility for the dastardly act. All the public has, so far, is a troubling possibility: that a C-4 explosive, or at least some of its sophisticated components, may have been part of the bomb that was detonated.

Acts of terrorism can have one of two possible objectives in mind. The first is to force a government or a people to bow to the will of a minority. The second is to bring a government or society to its knees, by shattering public confidence in the authorities, and sowing division within society.

It didn't help at all that the initial behavior of President Macapagal-Arroyo in reaction to the tragedy has compounded the public's anxieties and uncertainties. She expended as much energy in issuing warnings to "destabilizers" as she did in condemning the bombing. At Camp Crame, she told police officials to "coordinate and cooperate with Church leaders," a nonsensical directive, which only makes sense if seen from the perspective of cheap politics.

To be sure, one of the many horrifying aspects of this tragedy is that the list of potential suspects is extensive, ranging from Islamic terrorists to the military and to communist rebels. However, even the government itself has been put forward as a possible culprit, and what makes this significant is that such a scenario has crossed the minds of ordinary citizens, not just the usual critics of the government (though some of them, too, have been quick to assign blame to the administration).

It pains us to say this, but this harsh, cruel reality must be confronted by the administration. It is a terrible indictment of the credibility of government that the public considers its high officials among the suspects in such a ruthless crime. This means that our government must move heaven and earth to mount a credible, transparent investigation, even as it must protect the public from more terrorism amid perceptions that it may now be facing its enemies in a bloody end game or that its hand is being forced by radicals within its own ranks.

As analyst Ramon Casiple has said, only "succeeding incidents will create the patterns that make clear a decisive political—albeit extra-constitutional—strategy. Whatever happens, we have entered the final stretch of the political crisis."

We therefore add our voice to all those that condemn this act of terror and call for sobriety and calm. But we also believe that we must steel ourselves, individually and collectively, to vanquish apathy. The calls for unity at this time are not ritual statements, they indicate a pressing need that must be addressed. What we cannot afford, at this point, is an uncritical, unthinking and unseeing posture toward what is at stake for us all as a nation.

The way forward begins with our leadership on all sides of the political aisle, committing to a timely and unflinching investigation of the circumstances surrounding the blast. We must welcome foreign expert assistance. We must insist on the full disclosure of information and on the utmost professionalism of our country's police, military and civilian bureaucracy.

We are a people both compassionate and brave. We are a people who have faced mortal danger in the pursuit of peace, freedom and democracy. These are the non-negotiables. Each of us, and together, must take this time to vow that peace remains our ideal, freedom remains our defining cause, and democracy remains, as always, the sole means by which we confront, and overcome, national challenges.

*Publisher* ISAGANI YAMBOT
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## A flagrant and arrogant scandal

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

ON OCT. 11, 2007, A SCANDAL OF MAMMOTH proportions and unmatched in the dark history of corruption in the Philippines was perpetrated at a breakfast meeting in Malacañang. It was called by no less than the official resident of the misnamed Palace of the People—President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The guests headed by Speaker Jose de Venecia included mostly members of the House of Representatives, some 190 of them from the Rainbow Coalition. They were asked to support Ms Arroyo's sham impeachment (to prevent a valid attempt that would be barred for the rest of the year), and they speedily agreed. Their hostess then reportedly withdrew, and the real purpose of the meeting began. This was the distribution of gift bags containing cold cash for the favored recipients.

The cash gifts, euphemistically called Christmas bonuses or financial assistance, varied in amounts from P500,000 for the important figures to P200,000 to P50,000 for the minor ones. The beneficiaries included selected provincial governors and city mayors, presumably to maintain or court their admiration for the incumbent President.

As expected, Malacañang disowned any part in the scandal but, as also expected, nobody believed it. It has so lost all credibility that the people now accept, almost as an automatic reaction, not what Ms Arroyo says but its exact opposite. The Cabinet members also pleaded, but only *pro forma*, ignorance of the atrocity committed on their own grounds.

Practically all of the guests denied having received the presents or at least sought to describe them as honest tokens of appreciation or intended benefits for their constituents. One of them described the cash doles as simply customary although he later said he was just joking. But one provincial governor was far from jovial and took the offering seriously as a violation of law that needed to be exposed and punished.

This was Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga, the same province of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, with whom the priest does not share political persuasions or moral convictions. He said he innocently received a gift bag but was surprised to find that it contained P500,000 in crisp P1,000 bills. He instructed his finance officer to keep it intact in the provincial safe, and then he announced to the media the unwelcome gratuity.

As it turned out, some of his colleagues had also received similar thoughtfulness (another euphemism), but refused to be named, much less to identify the gracious giver, as if that were an impenetrable secret.

News of the scandal headlined in the INQUIRER the following day raised public outrage and even disbelief. Not that it could not be committed by the present administration, given its shameful record of prevarication, but over the openness and insolence of its commission. It seemed as if Malacañang did not care how the people would react to this latest plunder of public funds that re-echoed that cynical and devil-may-care attitude of "What are we in power for?" pronounced decades ago by an also insensitive regime.

The provenance of the public funds must obviously be Malacañang as the venue if not the principal culprit itself of the offense. But their accountability must remain a mystery unless earnest inquiries are made to unravel it. The money that was squandered was received anonymously without acknowledging receipts to support the transactions before the Commission on Audit. Or if the fortune was private, who was the billionaire who distributed it, and why?

Can the disbursements for questionably public purposes and the non-identification of the recipients (who will not pay income taxes for the unreported earnings) be simply approved by the financial watchdog of the government? Would not this kind of maneuver impair the doctrine of separation of powers through the machination of money to undermine the independence of Congress and even the Judiciary?

I am saddened that the protest against this most flagrant and arrogant scandal has not received much support from the people who seem to have resigned themselves to the abuses of this government. Even as the dictatorship of Marcos continued for all of 13 meek years but finally exploded in the fury of Edsa I, the administration of President Arroyo is no less detestable and also deserves the thunder of our rage.

Our sharpest weapon against the present dictatorship is our freedom of expression by which we can proclaim our peaceful resistance to our imminent but stoppable holocaust. We should always bear in mind that the real power in the truly democratic society belongs not to the leaders who govern it, whether wisely or not. As an inherent human right recognized by our Constitution, that power belongs to us, the ordinary citizens like you and me—the governed.

The obvious leader in this endeavor is the media, the newspapers, television, radio and other modes of communication that should articulate the desperate yearning of our people for a government released from the avarice for power and stolen wealth and dedicated only to the pursuit of the common weal. I hope the other organs of information—and of enlightened criticism—will join the INQUIRER in our campaign for this achievable ideal.

## Until when?

**MOMENTS**

*Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD*

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A LAWYER AND a doctor who were courting the same woman. One day, the lawyer had to be away on a trip for a week. To make sure that he will not be at a disadvantage while he was gone, he sent her seven apples with a note: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

* * *

**In today's Gospel (Lk. 18, 1-8), Jesus reminds us about the necessity of unceasing prayer. Yes, a prayer each day keeps the adversary away. How regular is your prayer life? How tenacious and how persistent are you in your prayer? The Lord reminds us today to pray, to pray always and to pray without ceasing.**

* * *

"Act as if everything depended upon you, and pray as if everything depended upon God." Has there been an instance in your life when all you could do was just to really pray? Have you ever experienced utter helplessness, and all you could do was to surrender everything in God's hands? We don't have to go through desperate moments to pray that way. May we learn to be more trusting in God and more hopeful in our prayer day by day.

* * *

**Until when should we pray? There are people who have stopped praying because they claim their prayers are not answered anyway, or because they cannot stand the delay. True prayer is surrendering everything to God's will, including the timetable.**

* * *

Instead of praying, "Lord, I want it, and I want it now," we should learn to pray, "Lord, I want it, but according to your will, according to your plan, according to your wisdom, and in your own sweet time. Amen."

* * *

**Human as we are, we only see what immediately lies before us. Let us not forget that there is a "big picture," and that God, because He is God, sees not only the micro and the macro of everything. It is not easy to surrender everything to God in prayer. Often, because of lack of trust or because of impatience, we do things according to our own will and according to our own time frame; and, more often than not, we find ourselves in more complications and in deeper trouble than when we first started. May we not have too many regrets later in life, may we not say to ourselves: "If only I obeyed, if only I really listened to God ..."**

* * *

When we look at what is happening in the world and in our country today, where evil seems to thrive and triumph, we can't help but ask and sigh: "Until when, oh Lord?" In our desperation, we may have even asked: "Lord, are you still there?" Why is it that the plundering, and the lying, and the cheating go on and on and there seems to be no end in sight? We take consolation in the words of today's Gospel: "Will not God then secure the rights of His chosen ones who call out to Him day and night? Will He be slow to answer them? I tell you, He will see to it that justice is done for them speedily." So, if we want change to come, let us organize day and night continuous vigils. Let us pray as a people and as a nation unceasingly!

* * *

**Until when will evil triumph? Until we learn to let go of our comfort zones and safety zones, no change will ever come, and thus we help, knowingly or unknowingly, perpetuate the people who speak, act and live out evil in our midst. There is a time for the safety pin, which is a pin that bends so as not to prick or hurt; but there is also a time for the safety pin to become "straightforward and not allow itself to be used for silencing or shutting up the truth."**

* * *

Today is World Mission Sunday. I am writing this column from South Korea where I spent four years—1984-1988—as a missionary. It is our turn now to share our faith with the world, to dialogue with other faiths and cultures, and discover our commonalities rather than the things or issues that divide us. Yes, let us all do our share in pursuing our mission for God's kingdom, worldwide and creation-wide.

* * *

**Last night, I and other Filipino pilgrims experienced "unceasing prayer" at a prayer vigil in a mountain with the Korean visionary, Julia Kim, and some 1,500 Koreans. Also present were pilgrims from the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia. The Mass was presided by Bishop James Chang from Malaysia with 10 priests concelebrating. The autumn climate in Korea nowadays is pleasant. However, the climate in the Korean church toward the Naju phenomenon is not that pleasant yet; that's why, all the more is needed unceasing prayer.**

* * *

Remember: God answers prayers not "according to the availability of funds." But according to His goodness and wisdom. Let us all be rest assured that God knows what is best for us. All the more reason for us to trust. And remember, in everything that happens, there is a reason, and there is a mission.

* * *

**The CFM Solo Parents invites you to an Advent Recollection on Nov. 12, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 12 nn at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, 1101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. Topic: "Wholeness and Holiness" by Fr. Glenn Gomez, SVD.**

* * *

Bantay Matanda invites you to a lay forum on "Ethics in Caring for Dementia Patients" at Janssen Hall on Oct. 27 at 8 a.m. Please call 3732262 or 09174167849 for inquiries.

* * *

**A moment with the Lord:**

*Lord, help me to believe and proclaim "until then!" instead of doubting and asking "until when?" Amen.*

# Watershed in good governance

**WITH DUE RESPECT**

*Artemio V. Panganiban*

FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR WILL BE A WATERSHED not only in the reformation of our electoral system but also in the battle for transparency and accountability; in short, in good governance. Come Feb. 2, 2008, the chairs of the Commission on Elections, the Commission on Audit, and the Civil Service Commission will be due for replacements. Just as important, the chief of staff (COS) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will retire on Feb. 9, 2008.

**Commissions on Audit and Civil Service.** In two previous columns, I stressed the need for transparency and public participation in the selection process for the new Comelec leadership. This time, I am calling for the same degree of transparency and vigilance in the appointment of the new leaders of the COA, CSC and AFP.

Like the Comelec, the COA and the CSC are essential democratic institutions. The Constitution safeguards their integrity and independence by detailing the qualifications of their chairs and members, ensuring their fiscal independence, guaranteeing their tenure, and enumerating their "power, authority and duty" which cannot be usurped, diminished or altered by any entity, not even by the president, the legislature or the judiciary.

An independent and courageous COA chair will assure transparency and accountability in the expenditure and use of government funds and property in all public offices. A vigilant and nonsense COA head is indispensable in preventing and exposing graft and corruption. COA reports constitute vital evidence in the prosecution of grafters and plunderers.

On the other hand, a nonpartisan and capable CSC chief will assure the continuation of essential public services, despite the worst machinations of the political leadership. In many countries like the United Kingdom and Japan, the civil service is so entrenched and so dependable that no political leader dares to ignore or defy its recommendations and regulations.

The incumbents, Guillermo N. Carague of the COA and Karina Constantino David of the CSC, have performed their jobs quietly and competently, befitting the dignity and importance of their offices. Their successors should do no less.

**Choosing the military's top gun.** Given that authoritarian rule is possible only with the support of a compliant military, the appointment process for the successor of Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who will retire on Feb. 9, 2008, must likewise be conducted with utmost transparency. Openness is even more pressing in this instance because, unlike the heads of the Comelec, the COA and the CSC, the tour of duty of the AFP COS can be extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

True, the president is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces. However, the Constitution mandates the AFP to be the "protector of the people," and not the guarantor of the whims of the chief executive. The choice of a new AFP chief of staff, or in the alternative, the extension of the tour of duty of General Esperon, can signal the purity (or impurity) of GMA's intentions during her remaining term, and beyond.

**Credible officials for constitutional offices.** Despite the *ad nauseam* criticisms hurled at the 1987 "Aquino Constitution," still and all, at least one bright spot must be conceded: it has preserved enduring institutions, like the Comelec, the COA, and the CSC (as well as the Ombudsman and the Commission on Human Rights), that are calibrated to fulfill the Preamble's noblest dream to "build a just and humane society" and to secure "the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law..."

To fulfill this dream, what we need are visionary men and women who will lead these sacred institutions. Between now and February 2008 are three months that should be used in assuring that only the best and the brightest, the brave and the untainted are installed in these offices, and in the highest position in our military establishment.

Of course, GMA is the key player in this effort. By agreeing to a transparent appointing process and, thereafter, by naming only the best and the brightest who pass the test of public scrutiny, she would rise above partisan wrangling and pave the way for her democratic legacy.

To accord GMA an unobstructed opportunity to ponder on this heritage, it may be prudent for all those who care—especially those in the media, the Church, the non-government groups, the academe—to grant GMA some breathing space and to critically collaborate with her in this effort to strengthen our democratic institutions through a transparent and participatory process of filling these vital vacancies with men and women of vision, gravitas and integrity.

**Last chance at good governance.** Who knows, GMA may yet surprise her harshest critics by naming outstanding citizens to lead the Comelec, the COA, the CSC and the AFP come February next year. Thereafter, she would still have enough time—about two and a half more years—to turn the tide of pessimism in her leadership, and to be remembered for a legacy of economic development in the most vibrant democracy in all of Asia.

However, if she fails our people's expectations during the next three months and makes appointments that are calibrated solely to protect herself and to extend her hold on power, I think she will sink so deeply in self-gratification that even the patient people of goodwill—those of us who now are still willing to give her a last chance at good governance—will lose all hope in her redemption.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com*

# Do we women count?

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

LONDON—"WOMEN DELIVER" IS THE NAME given by a group of UN agencies, NGOs, private foundations and businesses to this conference, convened not just to discuss why women continue to die in the millions due to causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, but also to look for ways to raise funds and create political will to bring down the carnage.

"Why are we gathered here?" asked Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, former head of the UN Commission on Human Rights, and co-chair of the conference. "We are gathered to look at the inequities," recalling a recent trip to Sierra Leone, where one in six women dies from pregnancy or childbirth, and then to Sweden, where the maternal mortality rate is one in 30,000.

"What do we need?" she then asked. "We need a bit of passion, we need to be angry, we need to stay together and deliver for mothers and their babies."

Certainly, there is much to be angry about. Jill Sheffield of Family Care International, which organized the conference, noted that 20 years since the Safe Motherhood Initiative was launched in 1987, "maternal mortality rates remain the same." At current rates, 10 million women around the world die due to pregnancy and childbirth each year, more than 90 percent of them in the developing world. "This is outrageous, unacceptable," she declared.

What is even more outrageous and unacceptable is that all these women are dying unnecessarily, because the world already knows what needs to be done to prevent these deaths. "It is not rocket science," Sheffield pointed out, "and it doesn't cost the earth."

The goal of "Women Deliver," in fact, is no longer to look into ways to prevent or minimize these deaths, but to convince governments and societies to "invest in women" because "it pays."

* * *

**DR. ASHA-ROSE Migiro, deputy secretary general of the United Nations, said at the conference's opening plenary that "investing in women is the most productive strategy for a government to pursue." And yet "very slow progress" is being made to bring down the number of maternal deaths.**

Two studies released here sought to rank countries: one, according to the vulnerability of their women to "sexual and reproductive risk"; and the other, the "lifetime risk of maternal death," that is, "the probability of becoming pregnant and the probability of dying as a result of that pregnancy."

In the first study, conducted by Population Action International, the Philippines ranks No. 53, falling within the "moderate risk" category. The PAI study tracks national indicators like HIV prevalence, adolescent fertility, prenatal care coverage, "met demand" for family planning, skilled attendants at birth, maternal death rates and infant mortality.

In the second study, conducted by a task force from various UN agencies, the country ranks No. 105, with one in 140 women likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth. (We have the same standing as North Korea and Peru.)

* * *

ON THE face of it, the figures and ranking may not be remarkable, but not when we compare our maternal mortality or risk figures to our neighbors in Southeast Asia.

In both studies, with slight deviations in ranking, the Philippines reports lower maternal mortality or risk figures only against the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Burma (Myanmar), East Timor (in the UN task force study), and Indonesia (which does slightly better than us in the PAI ranking).

Our other neighbors: Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, all fare better, with Singapore ranked among the "lowest risk countries" with one in 6,200 women at risk of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Maybe our poor performance when it comes to reducing maternal mortality (which is the key "Goal Number 5" of the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs) is the reason the Philippines is among the 32 "focus countries" in the conference. In each focus country, government representatives and a civil society leader have been invited to participate in a "ministers' meeting" to discuss firm budgetary and program commitments to address maternal mortality. A source says the Philippines is being "closely watched" by international bodies because our maternal and infant mortality figures have "plateaued" over the last two decades. The incidence of maternal mortality may have remained the same, but because of our high population growth, that means that in terms of crude numbers, more women have been dying.

* * *

ONE would think that, given this distressing situation, our government officials would pay greater attention to the "Women Deliver" conference. But even with our status as a "focus country" where ideally the ministers (or secretaries) of health and planning (or budget) would join a parliamentarian and civil society leader in high-level discussions, no high-ranking Filipino official has shown up. Only two parliamentarians: Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio and Akbayan Rep. Rissa Hontiveros-Baraquel, are taking part in the ministers' meeting, together with Junice Melgar of the NGO Likhaan. Representatives of UN agencies in Manila were reportedly upset because the Department of Health said it would send only a middle-level official in place of Secretary Francisco Duque. There is even talk that the DOH, which initially had been enthusiastic about the conference, backed off after Malacañang found out about the reproductive health and rights thrust of "Women Deliver."

What does this say about the Arroyo administration's commitment to the MDGs, and about its policy toward not just maternal and infant mortality, but also toward women and children? Do our lives count—to this administration?

It's really time we got passionate, and angry, very angry.

# Middle East modesty

**WORLD VIEW**

*Richard N. Haass*

"RIPENESS IS ALL," CONCLUDES EDGAR IN "King Lear." I will leave it to Shakespeare scholars to decipher what he had in mind. But for diplomats and historians, understanding the concept of ripeness is central to their jobs: it refers to how ready a negotiation or conflict is to be resolved.

This may sound academic, but it is anything but. The United States and the three other members of the Quartet—the European Union, Russia and the United Nations—are planning to convene many of the parties to the Israeli-Arab conflict at a meeting near Washington in November.

The problem is that the conflict is not even close to being ripe for resolution. Ignoring this reality will lead to failure, if not catastrophe.

Ripeness has several elements: there must be a formula for the parties involved to adopt, a diplomatic process to get them to that point, and protagonists who are able and willing to make a deal.

It is not clear that any of these conditions exist in today's Middle East. Much has been said or written about what "final status" or peace between Israel and the Palestinians would look like, but important differences remain regarding borders, the status of Jerusalem and its holy places, the rights of refugees, the future of Israeli settlements and security arrangements.

There is also a question of process. Who should be involved in negotiations? What issues should be on the agenda? What sort of activities, including violence and settlement activity, are to be precluded while negotiations take place?

Most critical, though, is the condition of local leadership. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas may want to sign a peace accord with Israel, but there is little evidence that he is in a position to do so. He has lost all authority in Gaza, and has a tenuous hold over the West Bank. If Palestine were a state, it would be judged to have failed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is in a stronger but still uncertain position. His coalition government survives mainly because many members of Israel's parliament know that they would lose their seats in an early election. It is an open question whether the most that Olmert would likely be able and willing to offer would meet the least that Abbas would be able to accept.

Trying to end the Middle East conflict in such a climate would be futile. Worse yet, failure would strengthen those on both sides of the dispute who argue that diplomacy is a waste of time.

So what, then, should be done?

First, it is important that expectations be kept modest. "Success" needs to be defined narrowly. Calls for an agreement on the most controversial elements of a final peace settlement are unrealistic. Simply agreeing to an agenda for follow-up meetings would be an accomplishment. Here, and elsewhere, the United States will need to take the lead; the parties cannot be expected to reach consensus by themselves.

Second, it is essential that this meeting be the start of a serious process, not a one-time event. Rigid timetables that history suggests would not be met should be eschewed. But no one should walk away doubting the determination of the United States and other members of the Quartet to see this process succeed as quickly as possible.

Third, diplomacy cannot survive, much less thrive, amid a deterioration of the day-to-day circumstances on the ground. More than anything else, Palestinians must come to associate peace and diplomacy with improvement in their living conditions. This requires improved security, inflows of aid and investment, and the curtailment of land expropriations that deny the promise of statehood. Israelis require and also deserve improved security.

Fourth, a path must be provided for those who did not attend the meeting to join the process at a later date. The most critical barrier for Hamas and others should be a clear commitment to forego armed violence in the pursuit of political ends.

Fifth, the Palestinian leadership cannot be expected to take risks for peace without political protection. This means that Arab governments, led by Egypt and Jordan, but including Saudi Arabia and other members of the Arab League, must publicly declare their willingness to support a peace that is based on coexistence with Israel. It would also help if those countries in a position to do so underscored their preparedness to make funds available to help build a Palestinian state and to resettle both refugees and those living in settlements that are vacated under any peace accord.

For some, this approach will seem overly modest. But this is not yet the time for great ambition. The context for peace in the Middle East has deteriorated sharply in the seven years since the Clinton administration last convened the parties. Today's Israeli and Palestinian leaders are far weaker than their predecessors; Hamas controls Gaza; Iran is more influential; additional settlements and a fence have been built; and the United States is bogged down in Iraq and has lost standing throughout the region.

This is not an argument for drift. Neglect in the Middle East is rarely benign. But it is vital that new efforts do not cause more harm than good. Avoiding failure is sometimes a better objective than achieving great success. This is one such occasion. Today's diplomats could do worse than recall the warning of the great French statesman Talleyrand: "*Surtout, messieurs, point de zéle.*" Above all, not too much zeal. ***Project Syndicate***

*Richard N. Haass is president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "The Opportunity: America's Moment to Alter History's Course."*

# Things fall apart

ONE MINUTE THEY'RE GETTING OUT OF A CAB, THE NEXT they're flying, hurled backward against the cab. And when driver Mario Em leaped out of the front seat, the two women were dead. Em dragged one of them out from under his car. She was pregnant.

People react differently to disaster; cope differently. I understand that, because that's the reason I sit behind a keyboard every Saturday and write—in the hope that laying out the words in black and white will explain, if only to myself, the sense behind the apparent senselessness. Joan Didion once said we tell stories in order to live. And so I tell this story, in the attempt to force images into a narrative line that makes some semblance of sense.

**REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

*Patricia Evangelista*

A sushi chef in a Japanese restaurant said the bomb went off at exactly 1:40 p.m. He was sending text messages when the explosion happened. "Then there was dust and smoke all over. We couldn't see a thing. People were panicking and running toward the exits. We tried to stay calm but it was terrifying," he said.

On television, a weeping woman moaned that her friend was dead. One father wrote of how he was surfing the Internet at the third floor of Glorietta 2 when the ceiling collapsed, and how his one thought was to get to Goodwill, where he had left his 7-year-old son. There was smoke, and he lost his glasses, and although there were cries from other people, he rushed down because he was afraid for his son. The boy was safe, and both of them left the mall, left their car, took a jeep and went home.

I've seen footage of a security guard racing out of the mall entrance, pounding down the sidewalk in shiny leather shoes with an unconscious woman in his arms. I've read about a 20-year-old trainee janitor who carried three injured victims toward the mall's entrance and brought them to Ospital ng Makati in a taxi. He said he couldn't remember anymore if he paid the taxi driver. A blogger talked about a man staring at his bloodied hand, another about a woman's mangled body by the escalators. And early this morning, a sobbing woman named Norlita Tan was told her missing husband Reinier Tan's body was finally discovered underneath the rubble. Yesterday her husband was alive, today, he is gone—because he went to a mall.

I don't know what else to write, other than that I can't understand anything that's been happening in this country anymore.

No matter how many times I hear about what's happening, however many times I write about the extrajudicial killings, the miscarriages of justice, the violence and the vulgarity and vicious attempts of government to bribe and steal and cheat, there was always some sort of distance, the safety barrier made up of laptop and recorder and the age on my passport. And I'm sure it's the same for many people, that necessary varnish of indifference, of philosophical acceptance that allows us to wake up in the morning and go plodding off to work—if we bleed for every man, woman and child who died violently or disappeared in the last few years, we'll have nothing left.

But I don't think that distance can ever be there again. When the soldiers were beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf, we were disgusted, violated, but we could push past it and say it's the risk a soldier takes. It is the same for the activists and journalists, the leaders and politicians. They're only names, mourned now, replaced by someone else's story tomorrow. But what's different about the Glorietta blast, in the reactions and confessions and the dozens of entries in blogs all over the Internet, is the uniform mix of fear and relief. There is no forgetting this one. The words that are repeated, in murmurs and whispers down the alleyways of cyberspace are the same. It could have been my brother. It could have been my boyfriend. It could have been my mother. It could have been me.

It could have been the girl and her father who had lunch in Luk Yuen. It could have been the boy who was planning to go to Toby's to look at sports equipment. It could have been any of the thousands who pour out of the Ayala MRT station and flood the crossing into Glorietta. There's no longer any sense of safety—it happened in a mall, that safe haven of the 21st century. It is the same mall where young couples hold hands while walking, the same mall so many of us who were raised in Manila have wandered into dozens of times without a thought. And in Glorietta 2, where the bomb struck, there were play areas, and toys, and children's books, and stores for mommies-to-be. Safe? We don't know what that means anymore.

There are many theories that have been bandied about. Some claim that this is a throwback to the Marcos regime, much like the faked assassination attempt against then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, that became the justification for the declaration of martial law. Many point to Muslim terrorists, to the Abu Sayyaf, to Jemaah Islamiyah. Others point to the military, claiming that it is the only segment of society with ready access to C4, the explosive suspected to have caused the blast. Many more point their fingers at Malacañang, arguing that the bombing takes away focus from the tense political situation. The more imaginative say this may be an attempt by Ayala Land competitors, or a move by the Chinese mafia—after all, wasn't it a Chinese restaurant that was the origin of the bomb?

I'm in no position to point fingers at anyone. I know too little, and it would be an insult to those who have suffered and died to make this political. What I know is this: that no matter how many times this story is told, and however it can be arranged or rearranged, it is a narrative that will never make sense, the same way this country so rarely does.

* * *

*For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com*

## Erratum

In the second sentence of the second paragraph of Mahar Mangahas' column ("GNP grew, but incomes fell") yesterday, the year "2000" was inadvertently omitted. It should have read "Previous surveys of family income were in 2000, 1997, 1994, etc."—Ed.

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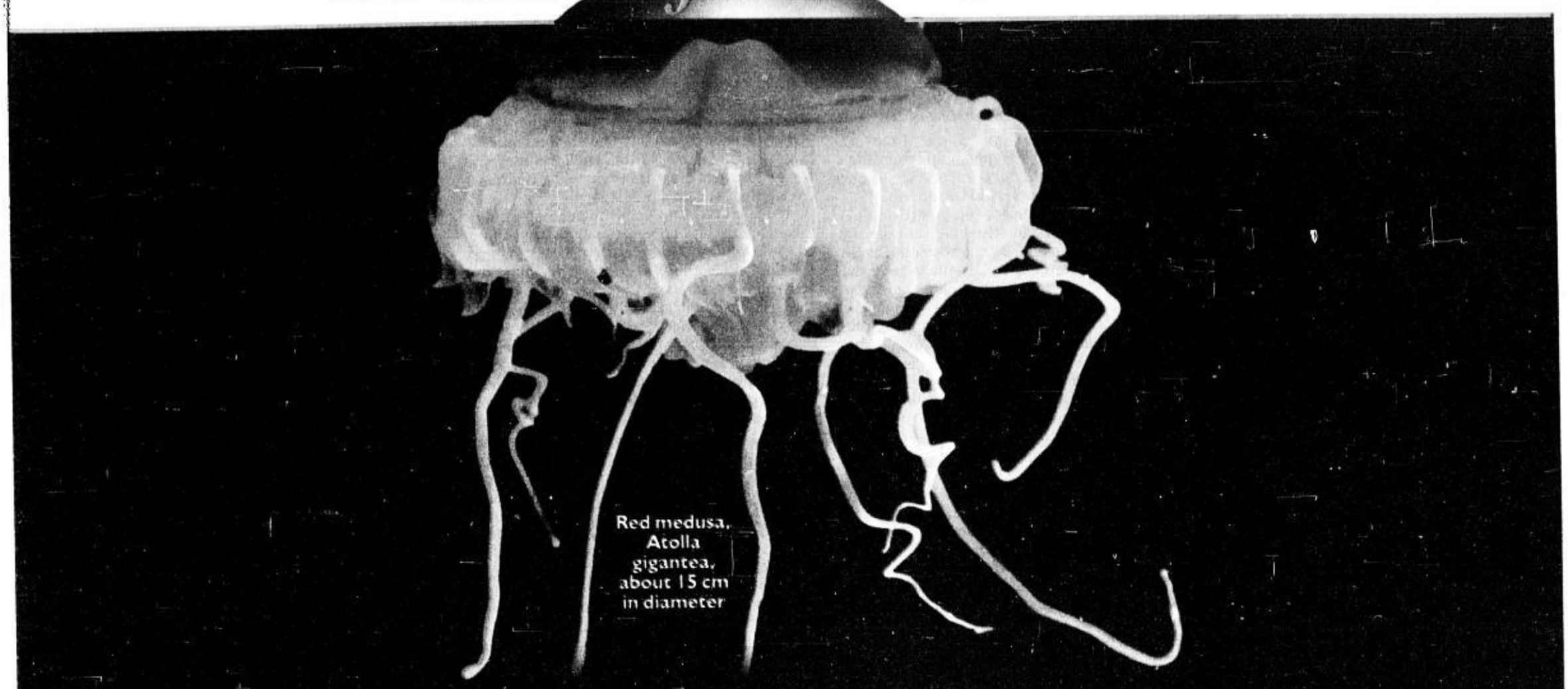
TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.




# Wonders of Celebes Sea

*BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION AND GEOLOGY, the Celebes Sea harbors marine species yet to be named or discovered, according to scientists.*

*Called the "heart" of the "Coral Triangle," the area is believed to contain the biggest number of marine species. The triangle comprises Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and New Guinea.*

*The ocean surrounding southern Philippines is considered the cradle of biodiversity for shallow-water marine creatures.*

*The shallow rim of the Celebes has insulated its deep waters from the cold water of the Antarctic that flows through practically all deep oceans.* **(See map)**

*This geological feature has kept the water of the Celebes, even at great depths, warmer for 25 million years, causing scientists to hypothesize that its deep-sea life may be different from other areas and may contain ancient biological relics. -Ed*

**By Allison W. Lopez**

SCIENTISTS WERE amazed to see an unusual creature—a "worm" with the qualities of a squid.

Whatever this creature found in the 5,000-meter-deep waters of the Celebes Sea turns out to be, it is believed that it is one of several new marine species discovered in a recent 16-day expedition by a team of American and Filipino scientists.

"We think it's a worm, but we don't know what it really is. It's the one that really excited us. We're very interested in it," said American marine scientist Laurence Madin of the tiny, orange invertebrate the team fondly called the "squidworm."

## National Geographic

The Inner Space Speciation Project (ISSP) is a marine scientific research conducted by a 27-member team led by American scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution of which Madin is acting research director, and their Filipino counterparts from various science institutes.

Funded by National Geographic Society and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the ISSP aims to increase understanding of the biological composition of the Celebes Sea, and to compare findings with data from other deep-sea regions around the world.

US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, who was at the briefing on Tuesday along with the media and select science students, hailed the two countries' "extraordinary partnership" in the interest of science.

## Tawi-Tawi

On board the BRP Hydrographer Presbitero, the ISSP left for Mindanao on Oct. 1 assisted by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) in its navigation. It returned to Manila on Oct. 16.

While the Namria operated the vessel, a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was supplied by the American group to do the nitty gritty of exploring the depths.

Through the ROV, the team was able to explore up to 3,000 meters under the sea off Tawi-Tawi, capture footage and photos of the uncommon creatures, and take specimens through the machine's suction.

"For sure, the result is a new record because no one has done this yet in the Celebes Sea using an ROV and a video plankton recorder," said Filipino marine biologist Noe Gapas of the National Museum.

## Heart of Coral Triangle

Because the "Coral Triangle" countries of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia have the "greatest shallow-water biodiversity," their relatively unexplored deep waters are likely to be "similarly rich and endemic," Madin said.

The Celebes Sea is practically the "heart" of the Coral Triangle. It is also somewhat isolated by surrounding land forms so its deep-sea organisms are contained in its basin and do not mix with those from other seas, he said.

Madin said it would take more than a month to confirm if the "squidworm" and other creatures were actually new species. Further analysis and comparisons are needed for its proper identification.

The world will also have to wait for the National Geographic feature before getting a glimpse of "squidworm" and the more special animals found in the Celebes Sea.

## Black-comb jelly

Another marine biology breakthrough, though, seemed inevitable. Aside from the "squidworm," a completely black-comb jelly with an orange stomach piqued the scientists' curiosity.

"We found this just right above the bottom of the sea. Unlike other jelly fish, this one has a black body. We've never seen anything like this," Madin said.

The use of technology may be costly—the ISSP mission alone cost an estimated $350,000 (P15.7 million)—but these scientific advances have made deep-sea surveys possible.

## Global census

Aside from immersing the versatile ROV for 8-10 hours to thousands of meters below where humans could not reach, the team used other equipment like the baited RopeCam to attract creatures and record their interaction.

Midwater trawl nets were also used to capture specimens that may have been frightened by the machines.

"We have a wonderful collection from the net that we did not see from the ROV," Madin said.

The ISSP team also went scuba diving to add specimens to the catalogue that would benefit a "global census" of ocean life.

The concerted effort yielded about 100 specimens, mostly luminous invertebrates (or creatures without backbones), including sea cucumber, deep-sea jellyfish, protozoans (single-celled organisms), box fish and snake eels.

## Piles of garbage

An unfortunate discovery, though, surfaced through the high-tech cameras: Large piles of garbage that made their way into the bottom.

"We were surprised to so much down there. (In the other deep seas we've surveyed) occasionally you'd see a beer can or two. We don't know how extensive this is but it covered an area of about 50 meters ... there were plastics, cans and also cardboard and paper that could be fairly recent," Madin told the Inquirer.

The trash, he said, was located near the islands so it was likely that some residents disposed of their garbage into the water whose bottom suddenly drops off very steeply.

"It's really very sad. We have to educate the people not to throw their garbage into the sea, and maybe we can stop manufacturing plastic bags and use indigenous materials instead," Gapas said.

## Awareness

Kenney, who had been to Tawi-Tawi several times, was visibly alarmed by the unsightly photo of the trash shown during the presentation. The ambassador, who had worked with environmental group WWF in cleanup programs, later asked Madin for copies of the photo.

Madin said the team had also given copies of the image to the Mindanao State University and Tawi-Tawi officials to raise awareness of the public.

Garbage and climate change notwithstanding, Madin said there was a growing concern for marine life, especially the untouched, mysterious ones in the deeper parts.

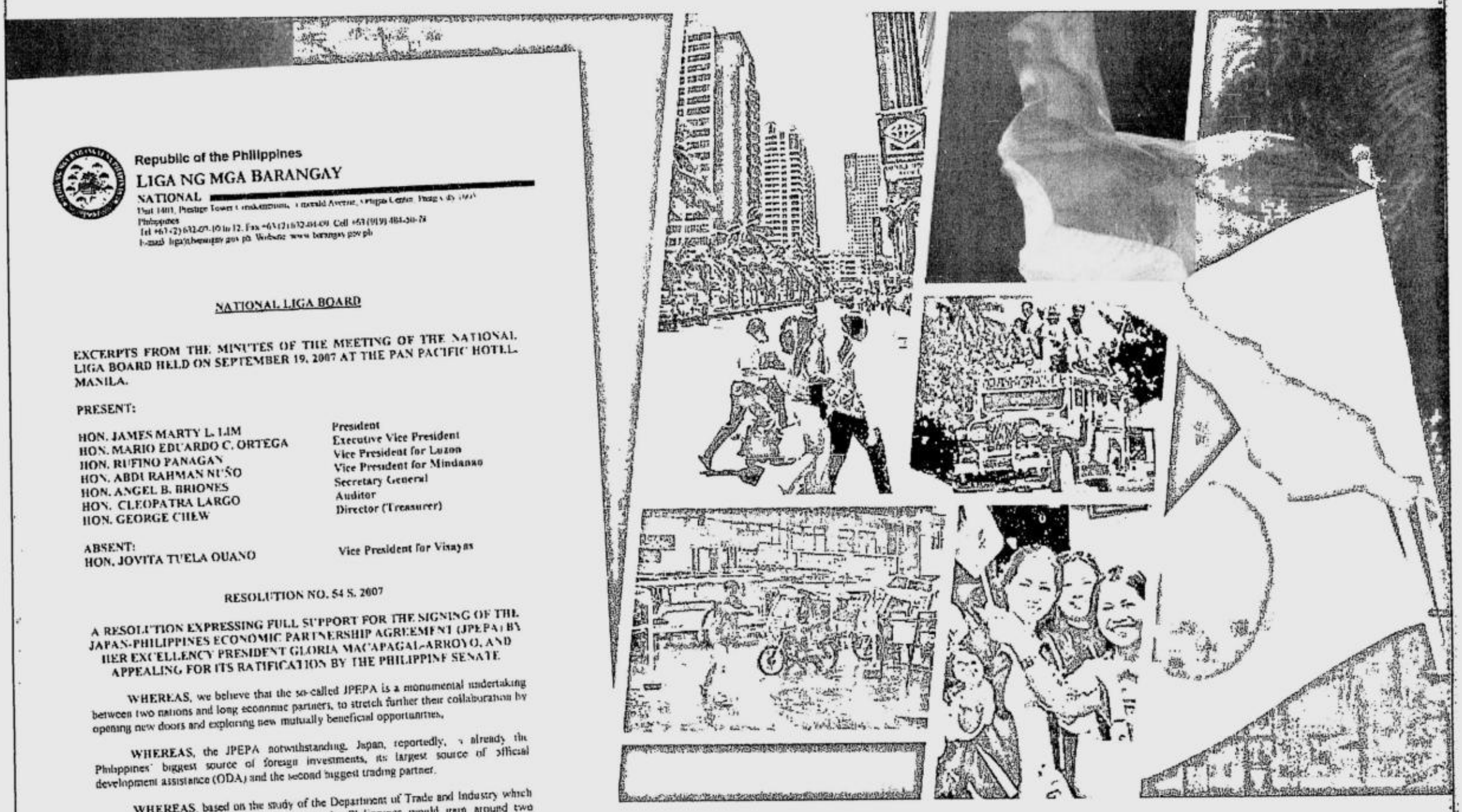
"Things are changing in the climate ... People feel like they should learn what's in there before we lose them, before they disappear. We really don't know what we may be losing that's why we have the global census. If we want to know more about life on the planet, the deep sea is one place we can look at," he said.

SOURCE OF PHOTOS AND MAP: INNER SPACE SPECIATION PROJECT/US NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

A one-cm long juvenile box fish

Zooplankton samples (jellyfish, shrimp, lantern fish, snipe eel and pyrosome)

# Kaming mga pinuno ng Liga ng mga Barangay ay sumasang-ayon sa layunin ng JPEPA. Nakikiusap kami sa ating mga butihing Senador na i-ratify ang agreement.



Republic of the Philippines
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NATIONAL

NATIONAL LIGA BOARD

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LIGA BOARD HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 AT THE PAN PACIFIC HOTEL, MANILA.

PRESENT:

| | |
|---|---|
| HON. JAMES MARTY L. LIM | President |
| HON. MARIO EDUARDO C. ORTEGA | Executive Vice President |
| HON. RUFINO PANAGAN | Vice President for Luzon |
| HON. ABDU RAHMAN NUÑO | Vice President for Mindanao |
| HON. ANGEL B. BRIONES | Secretary General |
| HON. CLEOPATRA LARGO | Auditor |
| HON. GEORGE CHEW | Director (Treasurer) |

ABSENT:
HON. JOVITA TUELA OUANO — Vice President for Visayas

RESOLUTION NO. 54 S. 2007

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT FOR THE SIGNING OF THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPEPA) BY HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, AND APPEALING FOR ITS RATIFICATION BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE

WHEREAS, we believe that the so-called JPEPA is a monumental undertaking between two nations and long economic partners, to stretch further their collaboration by opening new doors and exploring new mutually beneficial opportunities,

WHEREAS, the JPEPA notwithstanding, Japan, reportedly, is already the Philippines' biggest source of foreign investments, its largest source of official development assistance (ODA) and the second biggest trading partner.

WHEREAS, based on the study of the Department of Trade and Industry which headed the treaty negotiations with Japan, the Philippines would gain around two hundred twenty two billion pesos (P222,000,000,000.00) in Japanese Foreign Direct Investments in a matter of three (3) years that is from 2007 to 2010

WHEREAS, as a result of these investments it is claimed that about 330,000 jobs would be generated which in turn would cause an inflow of approximately P37 billion tax revenues,

WHEREAS, the above benefits which our country shall derive from the JPEPA will surely catapult our present economic standing to greater heights and will unquestionably alleviate the poverty of a wide margin of our population.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED TO EXPRESS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE SIGNING OF THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (JPEPA) BY HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, AND TO APPEAL FOR ITS PROMPT RATIFICATION BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE.

Done this 19th day of September 2007

## Pakiusap lamang po, bigyan ng kaukulang pansin at aprubahan ang JPEPA. Ito'y para sa kapakanan ng lahat at sa kaunlaran ng bayan.

JAMES MARTY L. LIM
*National President*

MARIO EDUARDO ORTEGA
*Executive Vice President*

RUFINO PANAGAN
*Vice President for Luzon*

JOVITA TUELA OUANO
*Vice President for Mindanao*

ANGEL B. BRIONES
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*Auditor*

GEORGE S. CHEW
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# US Marines promise no more rape during war games in Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—MEMBERS of the United States Marine Corps joining the ongoing military exercises with Philippine troops are "very aware" of the case of Lance Corporal Daniel Smith who was convicted last year of raping a Filipino woman, an American military official said.

Col. John Mayer, commander of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Phiblex co-director, said efforts have been done to prevent a repeat of the rape.

"Every Marine and sailor participating in the [Amphibious Landing Exercise or Phiblex] down here went through a week of cultural training where we had a doctor from the Philippines and others [who] are regional experts on the Philippines who brief the Marines and sailors on the people, on the political situation down here, on the areas where we train," Mayer told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

"The Marines are very aware of the Lance Corporal Smith case and so we covered that. The Marines have a great understanding," he said.

"The thing is that we as commanders, are very, very, very aware of the responsibilities and make sure that the Marines are ambassadors of the US and that we are guests in a foreign country," he added.

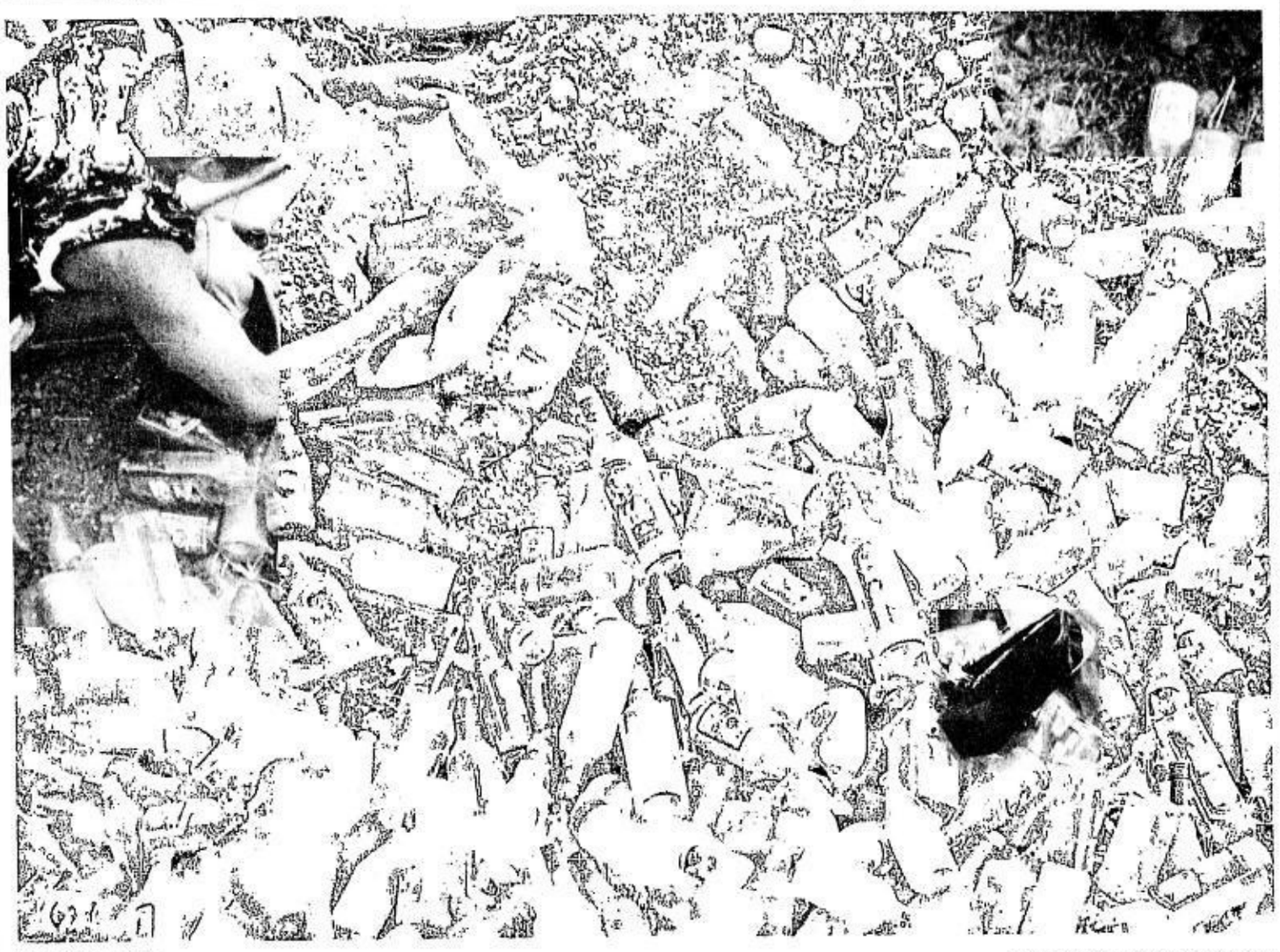
The Marines, he said, "understand" that thrust.

"They are here to train, to work along with their Philippine counterparts, to build relationship, to do community projects," Mayer said.

Col. Ben Mathews II, commander of the Marine Aircraft Group 36 and co-director of the Talon Vision '08 exercise, the same war game through which Smith and his three co-accused then came to the Subic Bay Freeport, said after the Nov. 1, 2005 rape, "we always talk about the conduct of Marines."

"We talk about the ethics and morality of [individuals], not just soldiers. We remind people, not just Marines and soldiers and sailors, about what it is to be beyond reproach," Mathews said.

The two exercises run until Oct. 30. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



**RECYCLING**
EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
**A worker collects bottles of alcoholic drinks at the Chico River which is turning into a dump for garbage of residents living in villages that are near the river in Bontoc, Mountain Province.**

# Terror alert up in Visayas, Mindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—POLICE AND MILITARY units in Central Mindanao were placed in the highest state of alert because of terrorist threats, a ranking police official said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, city police director, said intelligence reports have indicated that the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and its allies are planning to explode bombs in key areas of the region anew.

"We ask the people to be alert and report to authorities any suspicious baggage to prevent any terror attacks," Ajero said.

The alert status was also being implemented in malls and other public places in the region and in nearby Southern Mindanao region.

A similar alert was raised in the Visayas.

Chief Supt. Ronaldo Roderos, Central Visayas police director, said he also asked security agencies in malls to tighten security following the bombing at the Glorietta II mall in Makati City.

Authorities providing security to the Masskara Festival in Bacolod City were also put on the highest state of alert.

Geothermal facilities in Eastern Visayas were tightly guarded.

In Davao City, security has been tightened with guards thoroughly checking on every customer entering malls.

Checkpoints were also put up along highways in the provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley.

Bus passengers, especially males, were required to get off and submit themselves to frisking.

Central Mindanao police authorities filed charges against 25 suspects in the Oct. 5 bomb attacks here that left two people dead and over 30 others wounded.

Among those charged were Mohammad Nur Hassan and Macmod Manibpel, both identified with the Abu Sayyaf.

Hassan and Manibpel were earlier arrested for the 2003 bomb blast at the passenger terminal here but they escaped in February.

Chief Insp. Leo Ajero, city police director, said witnesses also pointed to foreign-trained bomber Abdul Basit Usman of the JI.

But he said Usman was not among those initially charged because there was no evidence he ordered the bombings.

"It's up to the prosecutor to determine whether to include Basit Usman's name in the charge sheet or not," Ajero said.

Al Calica, head of the justice department's Special Task Force Against Terrorism in Central Mindanao, said his office is still "carefully studying the case" before forwarding it to the court.

*Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez, Joey Gabieta and Jani Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas; Edwin Fernandez, Jeoffrey Maitem and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

## Sayyaf no longer a threat, says Army

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Western Command declared Thursday the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is no longer a threat in Palawan following the breakup of a 6-man cell last September that reportedly aborted their plan to conduct terrorist bombings in the city.

"We have been able to neutralize them. They planned to bomb Puerto last Sept. 11. No one was left with them," Commodore Ruperto Rico Borromeo, Wescom commander, told reporters during a security briefing with Palawan local government officials.

Among those arrested in a series of intelligence operations in September, Borromeo said, were six ASG operatives in the municipality of Sofronio Espanola, one in Cagayan de Tawi Tawi and a supporter in Puerto Princesa City.

"This was the ASG Palawan cell. We learned that during the first week of September, they were planning to sow terror in Puerto Princesa," Borromeo said. *Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Army wounded in Quezon clash

LUCENA CITY—An Army soldier was wounded after a brief firefight on Oct. 15 between government forces and New People's Army rebels in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang of the Southern Luzon Command, said Pvt. Adeson Pascua, member of the Army's 74th Infantry Battalion, was part of a platoon that chanced upon 13 rebels, while conducting combat patrol in Cabugwang village. Exchange of gunfire immediately ensued wounding Pascua.

The report said the rebels immediately escaped in several directions with undetermined number of casualties.

*Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### 3 nabbed in shabu session in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested a couple and another woman as they were sniffing shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) inside a house in Sta. Rosa City on Oct. 17.

Sta. Rosa police chief Supt. Reymundo Oliquiano identified those arrested as Ronaldo Reluya, 45; his common-law wife Mylene Ramirez, 35; and Estrella Campus, 43.

Recovered from the suspects were two plastic sachets containing shabu and several drug paraphernalia.

Oliquiano said they raided the rented apartment of Reluya in Barangay Aplaya at 3:45 p.m., after confirming information that the three were having a shabu session in the area.

*Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Alleged gunrunner nabbed in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A suspected gunrunner was arrested while selling two unlicensed pistols and a shotgun to an undercover policeman in San Pedro, Laguna on Oct. 17.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. said Noli Gevana, a resident of Sta. Rosa City, was included in their list of suspected gun smugglers supplying loose firearms in Laguna and other nearby provinces.

He said elements of the police Provincial Mobile Group arrested the suspect after a policeman who acted as the poseur buyer was able to buy two .38-caliber revolvers and a shotgun from him in a house in Barangay Landayan in San Pedro town. "We believe he had also supplied guns to others, including candidates for the barangay elections," he said over the phone.

*Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### 4 dead, 1 hurt in Quezon road accident

TIAONG, Quezon—Four persons died and another one was seriously injured on Oct. 12 when the tricycle they were riding was bumped from behind by a 10-wheeler truck in Barangay Lalig along the Maharlika Highway in this town.

A police report identified the victims as tricycle driver Arwin Evangelista, Eric Colarina (backrider) and passengers Dante Manalo and Edil de Villa—all residents of this town.

Another passenger, a certain Carlos Castillo, was undergoing treatment at the San Pablo Medical Hospital in nearby San Pablo City. Evangelista and Colarina both died on the spot.

*Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph
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*Editor* **Jun Bandayrel**
*Bureau Chief* **Nico A. Alconaba**

INQUIRER

# Tausug artist reaches out to Muslim, Christian faiths

"JOLO BURNING," is among the recent works of Rameer Tawasil, which is displayed at the gallery of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University.
PHOTOS BY JULIE S. ALIPALA

By Julie S. Alipala
*Zamboanga City*

NATIVIDAD FERRER OR Manang Naty, a retired teacher, prefers to spend more time in her parish, the Saint Joseph Church, in Zamboanga City.

"I am really struck by the altar's mural. Saint Joseph's image inspires me. It's like beckoning me to spend more time here," she says, referring to the artwork done by a Tausug.

"I don't know the artist, but the way it was done, it has more human touch and emotions. I believe this guy is a good person and I always tell my *apos* (grandchildren) to never judge people based on their faith," she adds.

Ferrer had taught in a Catholic-run school in Metro Manila and decided to retire in Zamboanga.

"I was critical of Muslims until I saw the painting," she says.

The person behind the mural is Rameer Tawasil, a 38-year-old father to four children and native of Karundung Island in Kalinggalang Caluang, a known war-torn town in Sulu, according to Councilor Rogelio Valesco Jr., who is himself a cartoonist.

Tawasil finished architecture but instead of joining big construction firms, he developed his talent in painting and taught youngsters who had great potential in art.

## Enthusiasm

"Because of his enthusiasm, he opened the gates of his own culture and tried to immerse it with other culture," Velasco says.

Velasco says Tawasil "introduced his principle, values and philosophy to our midst and we are glad that he broke this barrier down, mixed it with other cultures, and one great example is the altar's mural at the Saint Joseph Church."

One of the artist's admirers is Fr. Angel Calvo, a Claretian missionary and executive president of the Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ).

"Very impressive. This is a real artist," says Calvo as he inspects Tawasil's artworks during the launch of the "Sur" art exhibit at the Ateneo de Zamboanga University gallery.

The PAZ had earlier commissioned Tawasil to do a "peace logo" that earned him a Special Peace Citation Award in 2006. His rendition of a "Peace Dove Logo" has became a symbol of the peace campaign in the country and abroad, Calvo says.

## Low-key

But Tawasil wants to be low-key.

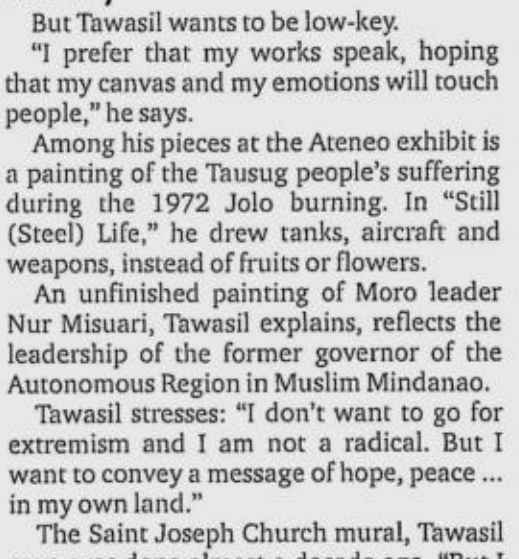
"I prefer that my works speak, hoping that my canvas and my emotions will touch people," he says.

Among his pieces at the Ateneo exhibit is a painting of the Tausug people's suffering during the 1972 Jolo burning. In "Still (Steel) Life," he drew tanks, aircraft and weapons, instead of fruits or flowers.

An unfinished painting of Moro leader Nur Misuari, Tawasil explains, reflects the leadership of the former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Tawasil stresses: "I don't want to go for extremism and I am not a radical. But I want to convey a message of hope, peace ... in my own land."

The Saint Joseph Church mural, Tawasil says, was done almost a decade ago. "But I did real hard work and research, and I found out that like Jesus, Saint Joseph is also part of Islam, and the Saint Joseph in the Bible as well as that in the Koran are the same."



"FARMS TO MARKET," another recent work of Tawasil.

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# 8,000 dance to world record

AS THE WORLD CELEBRATED World Osteoporosis Day yesterday, more than 8,000 Filipinos trooped to the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Pasay City to try to break the Guinness world record for the most number of people dancing simultaneously in a single event.

The record is currently held by Ireland with 7,644 dancers.

Based on an initial count at 8:45 a.m. yesterday, there were 8,107 participants. The event was made possible by the Anlene Movement, a crusade to raise awareness on the threat of osteoporosis. Statistics show that one out of two Filipinos is at risk of the disease.

Despite the early hour of 6 p.m., people ages 7 to 70 strutted their stuff together with dance master, actress Dina Bonnevie.

Dance groups who participated were Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, Ballet Philippines, CCP Joggers, CCP Physical Fitness Club, Philippine Ballroom Association, Aero Power Club, Sheeboom, and the following schools: De La Salle Araneta, Lyceum, Arellano and TUP.

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Late Sports

## Purefoods outclasses Talk 'N Text

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.—Magnolia vs Sta. Lucia Realty
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Air21

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS BROUGHT ITS WINNING form in the pre-season up to the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup.

After enduring a highly physical encounter with Sta. Lucia Realty, Purefoods sent offensive monster Talk 'N Text down to its knees with a 112-97 decision last night at the Lamberto Macias Sports Complex in Dumaguete City.

James Yap combined with rookie Chico Lanete in a three-point scoring spree as the pre-season champion Giants ripped the tension-filled matchup apart en route to their second straight victory.

Donbel Belano and Mac Cardona fought back for the Phone Pals but a 13-2 explosion starring 2005 league MVP Yap, Lanete and Marc Pingris boosted the Giants to an imposing 78-63 cushion.

The Giants, who survived nine technical fouls and two ejections in a physical game against the Realtors, grabbed the solo leadership with their second straight win while dealing the Phone Pals their first defeat after beating the Alaska Aces.

When Kerby Raymundo's floater put the Giants comfortably up at 98-75, it was all over for the Phone Pals, who were forced to pull Jimmy Alapag from the game early in the fourth quarter after being accidentally hit in the eye by a hustling Roger Yap.

Raymundo finished with 25 points while James Yap contributed 24. Renren Ritualo scattered 28 points and Don Allado added 15 points with Asi Taulava, Jay Washington and Alapag combining for only 10 points.

### Magnolia eyes share of lead

The Magnolia Beverage Masters try to keep the Giants company at the top when they tangle with the Sta. Lucia Realtors at 4:05 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Fiesta Cup champion Alaska Aces and the Express, who both dropped their opening games, collide in the other game at 6:30 p.m.

Except for untested rookies Samigue Eman and Jonas Villanueva, the Beverage Masters boast of a bevy of reliable holdovers and talents they acquired through brilliant trade deals the past two seasons.

Tanquingcen's starting unit could be a blend of Danny Seigle, Olsen Racela, Rico Villanueva, Dondon Hontiveros, Danny Ildefonso, LA Tenorio, Lordy Tugade, Chris Calaguio, Gabby Espinas, Wesley Gonzales and Willy Wilson.

"Dividing the playing time of these players is really a concern," said Tanquingcen following Magnolia's season-opening triumph over the Air21 Express, 121-112, a week ago.

"But my players are very receptive. They understand that whoever has the touch for the night, he'll be getting more playing time," added Tanquingcen.

**The scores:**

**PUREFOODS 112**—Raymundo 25, J. Yap 24, Pingris 15, R. Yap 10, Lanete 9, Salvador 9, Adducul 8, Yee 4, Larong 2.

**TALK N TEXT 97**—Ritualo 28, Allado 15, De Ocampo 12, Cardona 12, Carey 9, Taulava 5, Washington 3, Alapag 2.

**Quarters:** 16-27, 46-46, 80-65, 112-97

More Sports stories on A21 to 24

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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# School teaches blind to surf the Internet

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

HABER Tarala wants to be a Midi music maker someday. The Midi format is used in videoke machines and cell phones. Fortunately for Tarala, his school, Atriev, offers a specialized course on Midi music making. KENNETH M. DEL ROSARIO

HABER TARALA, 18, NEEDS TO DO RESEARCH on a class project he has to submit the following day.

He can't go to the library so he does the next best thing—he turns on his computer and surfs the Internet. After finding the information he needs, he types his work and then prints it.

To other people, Tarala may seem like a typical student, making use of the computer to help him out with schoolwork.

But there is one slight difference. Blind since birth, Tarala uses a special software which allows him to use the computer the same way a sighted person would.

The student picked up his computer skills when he enrolled at the Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (Atriev), a computer school for the blind on Kamias Road, Quezon City.

Apart from surfing the Internet, Tarala also chats online with his friends and sends them e-mails.

## Independent

"I'm happy that I have become independent since I enrolled here in Atriev," he told the INQUIRER.

The school makes use of a screen reader or voice synthesizer called JAWS (Job Access with Speech), a computer software which "reads" or "describes" to the user what is on the monitor so that the user can operate the computer without any help.

The software also "announces" what the user has just commanded the computer to do by taking note of the keys pressed on the keyboard.

For students with poor vision, the school has another program: ZoomText, a screen magnifier, which makes reading the text on the monitor easier.

"In our computer school, we make information available for the blind," said Tony Llanes, Atriev founder and president. "This is the school where the blind can see through computers."

The school's basic course, Access Technology in Popular Applications, teaches the blind or those suffering from "low vision" how to use the basic word processing program, spreadsheets, databases and presentations.

Students also learn how the computer operating system works, how to manage computer files and manipulate the keyboard.

The course is two months long; classes are held from Mondays to Fridays.

## Challenging

"The biggest challenge is teaching students like Haber who were born blind," Lourdes Borgonia, one of the school's instructors, told the INQUIRER.

She explained that it is quite difficult to explain concepts to totally blind students because they find it hard to visualize what is being taught to them. To make things easier for their students, teachers often use analogies.

For example, in explaining what a computer desktop is, Borgonia said she tells her students to imagine a table on which is placed a telephone, a pen holder and a vase. The table, she adds, is the computer desktop while the things placed on top of it represent the icons on the desktop.

"Here in Atriev, we're not only after teaching our students how to use the computer. We're also here to create awareness that our condition as visually impaired individuals is just that—a condition. We're all human beings no matter what," Carolina Catacutan-Sam, the school training and employment director, said.

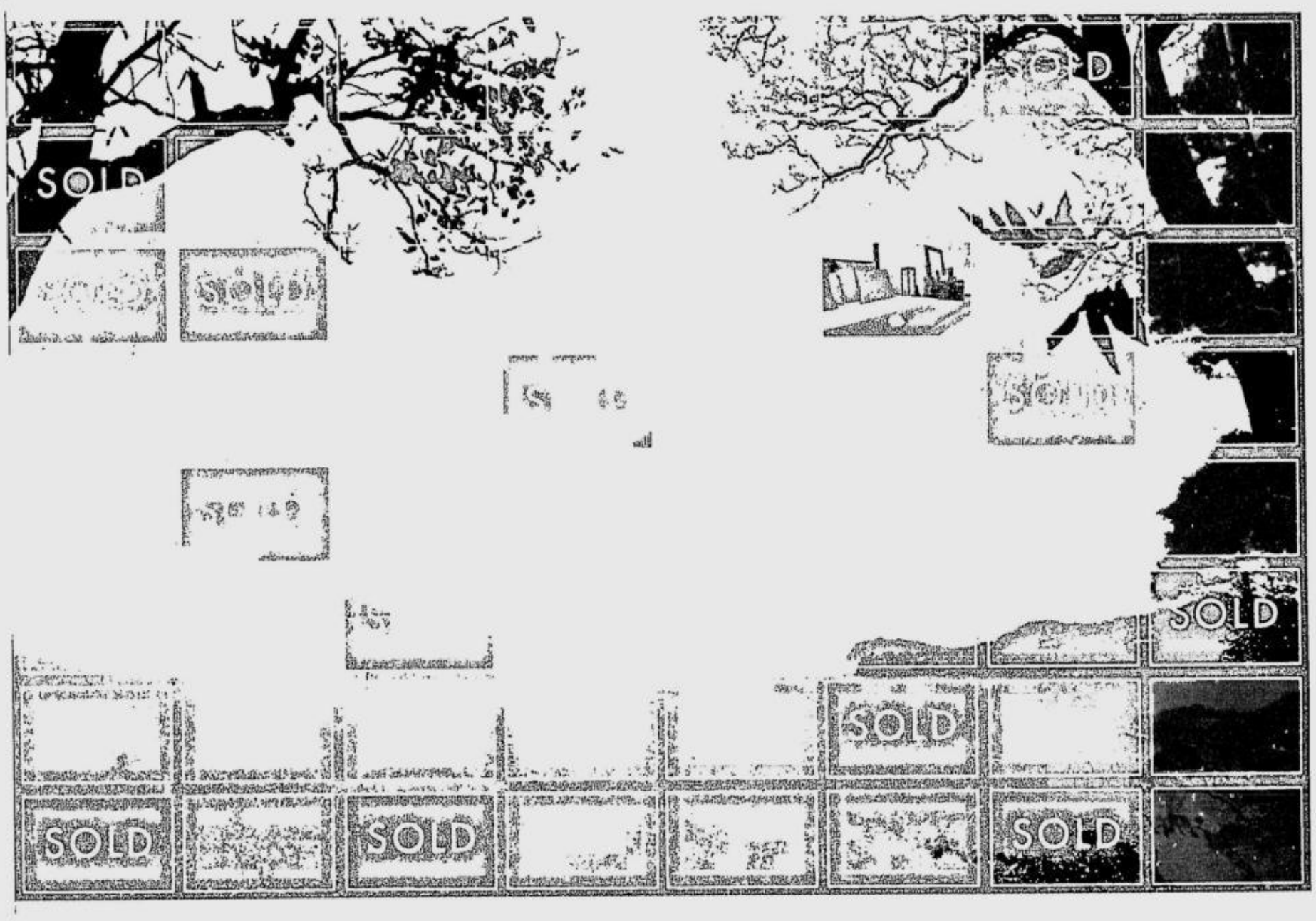
Llanes added, "We understand that development cannot take place without considering the issues, needs and concerns of people with disabilities."

In 1994, he and his friends started holding informal computer training classes for the blind in his house. Before long, the number of interested participants grew until Atriev was born and formal courses were introduced.

Tuition for the basic courses costs up to P10,000, Sam said. Most of their students, however, are subsidized by grants and donations from concerned groups, she added.

Haber, who is about to complete the basic course in Atriev, said he is confident he will make it in the real world alongside his sighted counterparts. "That's because we're generally more patient than others," he said.

"I've overcome my disability. I hope I can inspire people like me to overcome theirs. I once told Mama that I would make her proud one day by being successful in whatever career I choose. And I will," he said.

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**JUDY ANN SANTOS**, October 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# GLOBAL Pinoy

*Editor* **Gerry Lirio**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007

**NEED HELP?**
WHEN AN OFW is in trouble anytime, anywhere in the world, send a text message to +639209639767. The Center for Migrant Advocacy and its partners abroad, in cooperation with DFA, will respond to the SOS.

**This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.**

# HK Pinoys' hangout up for demolition

**By Philip C. Tubeza**
*Correspondent*

**DEAL OR NO DEAL? A Filipino woman entertains colleagues at their rendezvous in Central, a favorite Sunday pastime for everyone to cope with loneliness.** PHOTOS BY DANTE PERALTA

HONG KONG—AUthorities are planning to demolish the favorite Sunday hangout of Filipino overseas workers here.

The open space in Central District is up for sale to pave the way for the construction of Hong Kong's biggest shopping mall.

Others up for sale and demolition under the city government's Central Reclamation Project are more public spaces and heritage sites like the City Hall, the Chater Road Pedestrian Tunnel, Edinburgh Place and the Central Post Office, where many Filipino maids hang out on Sundays.

The city government is expected to start selling these public spaces after the reclamation project is finished in 2009.

The Filipino workers are fighting to save the space and the Chinese Local Action group, which launched well-publicized protests but failed to save the historic Star Ferry and Queen's piers from being demolished, wants to help them.

A leader of the Local Action Group, Yun-chung Chen, spoke to Filipino maids in Central on Oct. 7 to ask for their help.

Chen said his group is drawing strength from the Filipino workers in its fight.

## What's in the park

"Actually, the whole idea of protecting our public space we learned from Filipino people," said Yun-chung Chen, an assistant professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

"Since the 1980s, the Filipino people have been struggling to use Central public space. They were kicked out many times but they insisted, and so the government relented," Chen told the Filipinos at the Bus 13 terminal near City Hall.

"Our effort to protect public space in Star Ferry and Queen's Pier is actually the continuation of your own struggle to keep Central. So, you (Filipinos) are the pioneers. We are the followers," he said.

"We have a common interest here. We at Local Action are not powerful enough. Why, because we didn't get your support yet. Now we are ready. We have to work together now," he said.

"I hope that this will be the beginning of our alliance of the local people and the Filipino friends to protect our public space. Actually, you are Hong Kong people. You work harder than any average Hong Kong people. You deserve a better place—definitely."

Each Sunday, the parks and walkways of Central are filled with Filipinas who have no qualms about rolling out their mats on the sidewalk so that they could mingle together, eat their *baons*, play the traditional Filipino dances for their anniversaries, or just play *tong-its* or exchange latest gossip.

Filipinas here are everywhere—whether outside glitzy high-end shops like Prada on Chater Road—which is closed on Sundays and hence, the site of major Filipino community celebrations—or at the elevated walkways outside the stock exchange in Exchange Square, or at the outlying ferry terminals.

"Our *kababayans* recreate the Philippines here in Hong Kong on Sundays. We recreate Avenida in Central," said Catholic priest Fr. Robert Reyes, who is trying to create a street ministry among the domestics here on Sundays.

Filipinos are pulled to Central on their day off because many Filipino stores, banks, remittance, and door-to-door agencies are located at the World-Wide House shopping center, which is located at the heart of the district.

## No to shopping malls

And then there is the "alley-alley"—two side streets in Central that have vendors selling cheap clothes and fake signature bags; parlors manned by Filipino gays ready for a trim; and dimly-lit videoke bars that serve Filipino beer plus jukebox classics from Aegis, the Scorpions, to Ella Mae Saison.

St. Joseph Church, arguably the biggest and busiest parish of the Catholic diocese of Hong Kong thanks to the influx of Filipinos, is also located nearby.

Reyes said Filipinas assign a member of the group so that as early as 7 a.m., someone would man their rendezvous, roll out their mats and stake out their territory while the others go to Mass.

They love the open space, he said, because domestics are not allowed to stay inside the district's high-end shopping malls and, if they want, hang out in the popular fast-food outlets, because they would then have to shell out some hard-earned cash.

While Catholic parishes and other churches have community halls where they could stay, many Filipinos prefer the streets not just because these halls would, not be able to hold all of them, but also because of the freedom that the sidewalk offers.

"You can't be boisterous, play cards, or drink (alcohol) in our community centers and so they prefer to go out," Reyes said.

"They are fulfilling a basic need—regain their sanity after a week of household work, to get sleep and rest, to see friends and have a sense of family."

Reyes also noticed one more thing—many of them congregate based on which region they come from in the Philippines.

## HSBC rendezvous

He said many Ilocanos squat around Chater Road and its surrounding areas like Chater Garden and Statue Square. Groups of Ilonggos, Warays, and Cebuanos stay at the Bus 13 terminal near City Hall.

At the nearby Post Office, especially under the foot bridge, maids from Mindoro and their friends hang out.

Said Reyes: "I've noticed that many of those who group themselves usually come from the South or from an island like Mindoro. Not so much the other Tagalogs who dispersed."

The priest, however, said he met groups from Rizal—from the towns of Montalban, Carmona, Morong, and San Mateo—milling around the new Star Ferry Pier.

"You can say that this group is the majority or dominant in this or that place but of course there are little groups from other regions among them," he said.

"Like in the Bus 13 terminal, many Ilonggos stay outside while those from Leyte, Samar and Cebu are inside," he added.

Another famous landmark in Hong Kong that Filipinos have turned into a "*tambayan*" is the floor below the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Co. headquarters, which is a stone's throw away from Statue Square.

"They call the HSBC building the 'international' because people there come from different regions, though most of them are Ilocanos, Reyes said.

It is also a mixed crowd along the long stretch of the elevated walkway from Exchange Square up to the old Central public market.

Here, you can see faces from Isabela, Bicol, Mt. Province, Cagayan de Oro, Surigao, Dumaguete, Misamis, Davao, Bohol, Zamboanga, Cavite, Capiz, Aklan, Batangas, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Guimaras, Pampanga, Abra and Sultan Kudarat.

**A TIME TO PLAY. After a week of working like a docile carabao, Filipinos take to Chater Road on a Sunday to rehearse a song-and-dance number 'til they drop.**

Reyes said that he is trying to draw an "ethnic map" of the hangouts of Filipinas in Hong Kong for his budding street ministry.

## Largest shopping center

"It's a work in progress and the next phase is going to be interesting because we want to know how they started hanging out in these places," he said.

"For example, how did the Ilocanos become predominant in Chater?"

That oral history project would have to be hastened since the Central Reclamation Project is already underway. Among others, the project aims to reclaim 18 hectares of land from Victoria Harbor and create roads to decongest vehicular traffic in Central.

But Chen said the project would only lead to more traffic congestion in the area because of the creation of more shopping centers, including the "groundscrapper" which is supposedly going to be Hong Kong's largest shopping mall.

"It's going to be 10-story high and 400-meter long. It will be the largest shopping mall in Hong Kong," Chen said.

He said that even if the present open spaces were not demolished, these might be sold to private developers that could then ban the maids from staying there.

If the groundscrapper project pushes through, it would affect Filipinos staying at City Hall, the Central Post office and its environs.

"The reclamation is an excuse to really privatize the free space we have today. Our government nothing but respects money. They want to tear down all this public space into money space. They want to privatize it to make money," Chen said.

"They are doing it slowly, slowly taking down the public space one by one and (until it becomes) a very clean space with an expensive shopping mall."

The government, however, is promising more open spaces in the land to be reclaimed from the harbor.

But many Filipino migrant leaders are wary especially with a recent proposal in the Central district council to open public carparks to domestics on Sundays.

"That is one way of evicting us from our *tambayans*. It's a prelude to our removal so that when the redevelopment goes full swing, removing us would no longer be a problem," said Eman Villanueva, secretary general of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

"If you remember, the government of Hong Kong, particularly the Central district council, has been thinking about this for a long time. We've even been called eyesores because (Central) is a commercial and financial district," he added.

Villanueva said transferring Filipinos to car parks would not only pose a health risk for domestics, it would also destroy the communities that have grown around these areas.

"For us migrants, our *tambayan* have become our second homes because it is where we meet and share a meal together on our day-off," said Ma. Teresa Masculino who has been strolling at the Bus 13 terminal on Sundays since 1998.

## Oldies but goodies

"We've been here for many years. We've grown old in this place. This is our home while we are in Hong Kong. It would be like losing our address if maids were evicted," she added in Filipino.

Masculino said her group and other organizations are waging an education campaign among her fellow domestics about the redevelopment project and they are also planning to bring the matter to the court.

"We know that we are a part of the Hong Kong community. We are a part of Hong Kong's economic progress, so the government should be involved for our well-being. It cannot be that just because we are migrants and they have this plan, they can do whatever they want," she said.

While many migrants are adamantly against any eviction, others are waiting for what the government has to offer, because they also do not want to just stay in the open without a roof over their heads.

"My only worry is that if the construction of that shopping mall proceeds, where will they relocate the migrant workers because there are many of us," said Mary Jean Cascadan, another Bus 13 habitué.

"Where will we hang out? Inside the shopping mall? Under the bridge?" she asked in Filipino.

# Foreign students in US risk deportation

**IMFO**
*Lourdes Santos Tancinco*

NOWADAYS, SECURITY CHECKS at US consular posts around the world and within the US system had resulted in stricter implementation of the foreign student visa process. For those who abused the foreign student visas, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) make it a point to enforce the immigration law against student visa holders resulting in arrests and subsequent removal of visa applicants.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (Sevis) was implemented in August 2003, as part of the federal government's goal to restore integrity to US immigration systems. Sevis is a web-based system that maintains information on F and M international students. Sevis requires schools to report virtually all changes in a student's program to this system. It is an electronic, real-time, centralized repository of records of foreign students. It tracks the status of F, M and J nonimmigrants from the moment they are accepted to a US school until completion of their program.

Sevis is administered by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's SEVP and is used by US consular officers abroad and US Customs and Border Protection (CBPO) officers at ports of entry. Since its inception in 2003, the ICE took responsibility for Sevis from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services and established the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to manage the program. It also created the Compliance Enforcement Unit (CEU) within its Office of Investigations, which uses Sevis data to identify and investigate potential student, exchange visitor, school and exchange visitor program sponsor violators.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the US Department of Homeland Security through the Compliance Enforcement Unit extracts data from the Sevis. The Sevis system is able to perform automatic data to identify foreign students who have fallen out of status. Those who had fallen-out status are those who fail to maintain their status for specific reasons, such as failing to show up for their program or failing to carry the required course load.

The Compliance Enforcement Unit reviews record checks against terminated record and identifies those who have actually violated their status. Once they are identified, they are prioritized according to national security risk, or impact on public safety. ICE field offices are then contacted and assigned leads for further investigation. ICE is committed to enforcing the immigration law against violators identified through Sevis. As of last year 2005, over 81,000 potential violator leads have been resolved through CEU analysis and more than 600 in arrests.

For those who failed to maintain their status as student visa holders in the past or those who were issued Sevis I-20s and did not report for their school program, the ICE through the Compliance Enforcement Unit are closely monitoring the whereabouts of these foreign student violators. The Sevis has an automatic system of detecting who had fallen out of status and that it would be easier for the ICE to locate these foreign student violators.

Hence, if in the past, a foreign student had a Sevis I-20 issued by the school and failed to maintain status by dropping off the school program there is a strong probability that they will be located and taken into custody by the ICE in view of the policy of implementing the law against foreign student violators.

*(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Tancinco may be reached at 887-7177 or at law@tancinco.com)*

# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Pakistan probes Bhutto blast suspects

SUPPORTERS of Benazir Bhutto offer prayers for the victims of Friday's bombing incident in Hyderabad, 160 km from Karachi on Oct. 19. Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said on Friday she would carry on her struggle for democracy in Pakistan, despite a suicide bomb and grenade attack on her motorcade that killed 139 people as she returned home after eight years of exile. REUTERS

KARACHI—PAKISTAN PROBED SATURDAY A LIST of possible suspects given by former premier Benazir Bhutto after a suicide assassination bid that killed 139 people and bloodied her return from exile.

Bhutto said she had sent President Pervez Musharraf the names of three people she accused of involvement in Thursday's blast, which ripped through a crowd of hundreds of thousands who welcomed her back to Karachi.

"I have shared the names with General Musharraf and one of the people is someone that they are (already) watching," Bhutto told the BBC in an interview, but refused to give their names.

The 54-year-old said she did not believe that the "state or government" were involved in the attack, but sources in her Pakistan People's Party said the list included senior army officials, without elaborating.

Bhutto has said that she received a warning prior to her return from Dubai about members of al-Qaida, Pakistani and Afghan Taliban and a Karachi-based militant group who may plan to attack her.

She has also accused Islamist supporters of late military ruler Zia-ul-Haq of being behind the blasts, the worst suicide bombing in Pakistan's history.

He overthrew Bhutto's father, prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, in 1977 and had him hanged two years later.

The United States—which has backed a proposed power-sharing deal between key antiterror ally Musharraf and the Oxford and Harvard-educated Bhutto—has offered its help in the investigation.

Police said they were pushing forward with the probe but had made no arrests. Musharraf pledged to bring the culprits to justice in a telephone call to Bhutto on Friday.

"Investigations are progressing in the right direction but once again we will avoid pinpointing anyone or blaming it on a certain set of militants," Karachi police chief Azhar Farooqi told AFP.

"There has been a minor piece of evidence found from the site today but we will not be disclosing it. Police have secured the site of the blast and taken samples." Police said one more person died overnight, taking the number killed to 139.

As the death toll rose, a bomb exploded in a market in troubled southwest Baluchistan province Saturday killing seven people in the latest violence to hit the country.

Bhutto has pledged to stay in Pakistan to combat militancy and fight general elections in January, seen as a key step to returning the Islamic republic of some 160 million people to civilian rule.

But the attack on her motorcade has cast doubt over her previous plans to tour the country to whip up support ahead of the polls.

Her party said she would soon visit the tomb of her father in her family's ancestral village of Larkana, deep in southern Sindh province. *AFP*

## Bush slaps wider sanctions on Burma, backers

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush expanded US sanctions against the rulers of Burma (Myanmar) on Friday, accusing them of "vicious persecution" of democracy protesters, and urged China and India to step up pressure on their neighbor.

Unveiling the second package of US measures in less than a month, Bush said he was adding more of Burma's military leaders to a list already facing sanctions and had ordered a tightening of US export controls on the Asian country.

But in a tacit admission that US steps alone would not be enough, he urged China, India and other countries in the region to "review their own laws and policies" on Burma.

"Burma's rulers continue to defy the world's just demands to stop their vicious persecution," Bush told reporters. "They continue to reject the clear will of the Burmese people to live in freedom under leaders of their own choosing."

Bush's latest announcement followed weeks of mostly unsuccessful international efforts to get Burma's government to ease up on repression of protesters and open a dialogue with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Burma's junta has kept a tight lid on the country since crushing Buddhist monk-led protests that began in September and grew into the largest antigovernment demonstrations in 20 years.

Official media said 10 people died.

Bush unveiled one set of limited sanctions last month targeting 14 military leaders, toughening US measures that had been in place for years but had forced little change.

"In light of the ongoing atrocities by these men and their associates, the United States has today imposed additional sanctions," Bush said on Friday.

He designated 11 more leaders under existing sanctions, including a freeze on US assets, and also named 12 new "individuals and entities" to be covered by US penalties.

The White House said Bush's tightening of exports controls would include a ban on the sale of high-performance computers to Burma.

Bush demanded the International Committee of the Red Cross be given access to political prisoners, that Suu Kyi and other detained leaders be allowed to communicate with each other and that UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari be allowed back.

Bush said the United States would "consider additional measures if Burma's leaders do not end the brutal repression." *Reuters*

## Cecilia Sarkozy speaks out about her divorce

PARIS—CECILIA SARKOZY acknowledged that she left home two years ago after she fell in love with another man. She suffered in the unforgiving spotlight of public life. And she "tried everything" to avoid divorce, but had no regrets.

The day after the Elysee Palace announced that President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife had divorced and would not comment on the matter, Cecilia Sarkozy was on the front page of a French regional newspaper on Friday telling her side of the story.

"France elected a man, not a couple," she said in an exclusive interview with the paper, L'Est Republicain. She added, "I am someone who likes the shadows, serenity, tranquillity."

She praised the president as "a man who is able to do so much for France."

"But," she said, "I, I don't think this is my place."

It was the absence of a comfortable "place"—in the marriage and in her life—that led her to ask for a divorce to end the couple's 11-year-marriage, the second for both of them.

In 2005, "I met someone, I fell in love, I left," she admitted, the first time she has publicly spoken of her affair with Richard Attias, an events organizer. After a photo of them studying the layout of a New York apartment appeared on the cover of Paris Match, the editor lost his job. He later blamed Nicolas Sarkozy for arranging for him to be fired.

She returned home, but failed to put the marriage back together. "We tried everything, I tried everything," she said, adding: "What happened to me has happened to millions of people: One day you no longer have your place in the couple. The couple is no longer the essential thing of your life. It no longer functions; it no longer works."

NICOLAS Sarkozy's wife Cecilia. AP

Sarkozy, 49, a former model, did not always eschew the limelight. She served as her husband's closest adviser when he was minister of the interior, keeping an office next to his and controlling everything from his schedule to his diet.

Nicolas Sarkozy will live at the Elysee Palace and she at their apartment in the Paris suburb of Neuilly. According to the divorce settlement, they will share custody of their 10-year-old son, Louis. *NYT*

LARIJANI AFP

## Iran's top nuke negotiator resigns

TEHRAN—IRAN ON SATURDAY announced its top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani has unexpectedly resigned at a time of growing tension with the West over the Islamic republic's controversial nuclear program.

Government spokesperson Gholam Hossein Elham said Larijani had already offered his resignation several times and now President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had chosen to accept it.

"Larijani had resigned several times and finally the president accepted his resignation," state news agency Irna quoted Elham as saying. "The appointment of Larijani's replacement is under study."

Rumors have been circulating in Iran for months that Larijani was unhappy and had offered to resign several times. But nothing had ever been confirmed by officials.

Elham offered no explanation for the resignation except to say that Larijani had "personal reasons" to step down.

"He said he wanted to have other activities in politics and had asked the president several times to resign from his post," he said, according to the Fars news agency.

Larijani, who took on his post after Ahmadinejad's election in 2005, was one of the most powerful figures in the Islamic republic, leading two years of sensitive talks with EU officials over Iran's nuclear program.

He maintained Iran's position that it would never yield in the nuclear standoff.

In his capacity as head of the Supreme National Security Council, he also handled other security issues, including the process leading up to the release of 15 British sailors arrested in Iran in March.

Iran is expected to appoint a deputy foreign minister, Saeed Jalili, to replace Larijani, the Iranian media reported. *AFP*

## *To thwart street crime in Japan, don't dress like a victim*

TOKYO—ON A NARROW Tokyo street, Aya Tsukioka demonstrated new clothing designs that she hopes will ease Japan's growing fears of crime.

With a deft motion, Tsukioka, a 29-year-old fashion designer, lifted a flap on the front of her skirt to reveal a large sheet of cloth printed in bright red with a soft drink logo partly visible. By holding the sheet fully open and stepping to the side, she showed how a woman walking alone could elude pursuers—by disguising herself as a vending machine.

The wearer hides behind the sheet, which is printed with an actual-size photo of a vending machine. Tsukioka's clothing is still in the developmental stage, but she has already created several versions, including one that unfolds from a kimono and a deluxe model with four sides for more complete camouflaging.

These elaborate defenses are coming at a time when crime rates are actually declining in Japan. But the Japanese, attuned to the slightest signs of social fraying, say they feel growing anxiety about safety, fanned by a sensationalist news media. Instead of pepper spray, though, the Japanese are devising a variety of novel solutions, some downright quirky, reflecting a uniquely Japanese sensibility.

Take the "manhole bag," a purse that unfolds to look like a round sewer cover. Lay it on the street with your wallet inside, and unwitting thieves are supposed to walk right by, mistaking it for an ordinary manhole. There is also a line of knife-proof high school uniforms made with the same material as Kevlar, and a book with tips for mothers on how to dress even the most modest children like "pseudohoodlums" to scare away schoolyard bullies.

While Americans want to protect themselves from criminals, the inventors say many Japanese favor camouflage and deception, reflecting a culture that abhors self-assertion, even in self-defense. *NYT*

## Vatican sees dialogue with Muslims as difficult

PARIS—THE TOP VATICAN official for Islam has praised a novel Muslim call for dialogue but said real theological debate with them was difficult as they saw the Koran as the literal word of God and would not discuss it in depth.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, in an interview on Friday with the French Catholic daily La Croix, also said Christians would have to discuss curbs on building churches in the Islamic world in the dialogue advocated by 138 Muslim scholars in the appeal.

His interview, coming after mostly positive comments by other Catholic Islam experts, signaled the world's largest Christian church wanted a serious dialogue with Muslims that did not avoid some fundamental issues dividing the religions.

"Muslims do not accept that one can discuss the Koran in depth, because they say it was written by dictation from God," Tauran said. "With such an absolute interpretation, it is difficult to discuss the contents of faith."

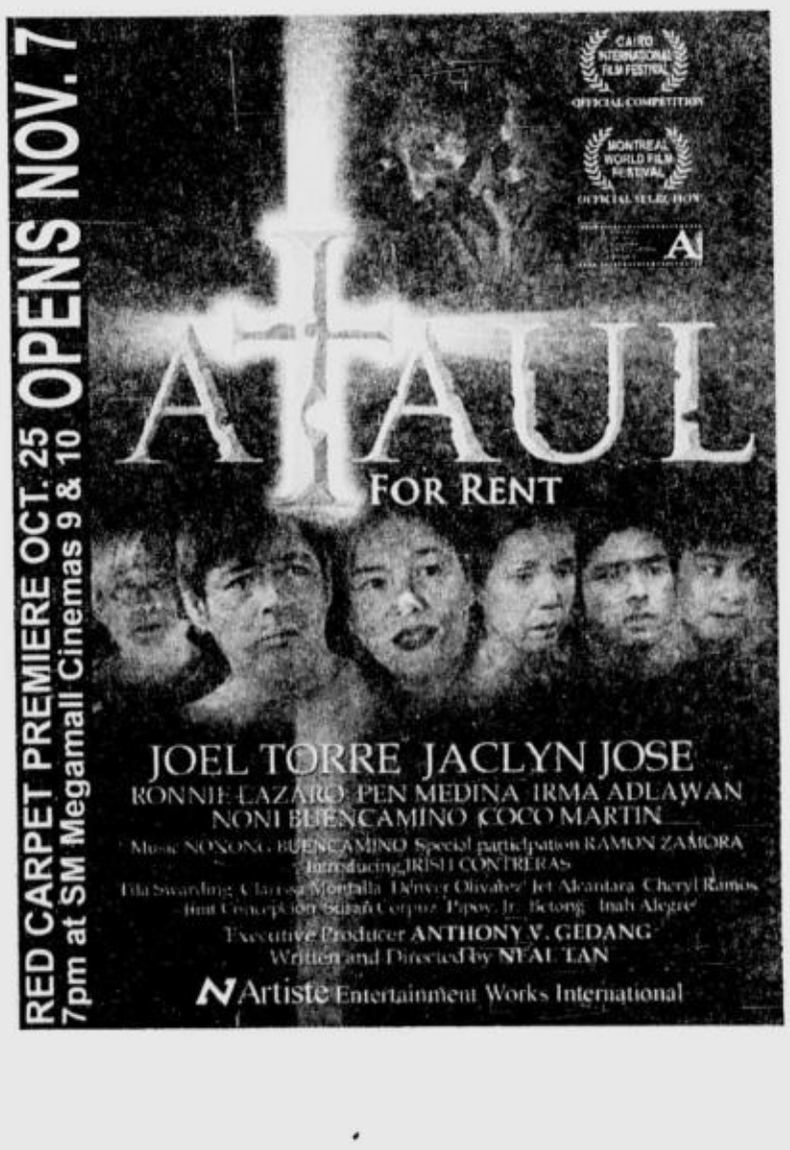
The fact that Muslims can build mosques in Europe while many Islamic states limit or ban church building cannot be ignored, he said. "In a dialogue among believers, it is fundamental to say what is good for one is good for the other," he said.

The appeal last week by 138 scholars representing a large majority of Islamic views invited Christian leaders to a dialogue based on their common belief that love of God and neighbor is the cornerstone of their religions.

It was unprecedented because Islam has no central authority to speak for all believers, especially not the silent majority that does not agree with radicals whose preaching of jihad and rejection of other faiths often dominates the headlines.

The appeal was addressed to all leading Christian churches. Anglican, Lutheran and evangelical leaders and the World Council of Churches have all welcomed it.

But the reaction of the Roman Catholic Church, which makes up more than half of the world's two billion Christians, is key to any coordinated Christian response to the Muslim appeal. *Reuters*



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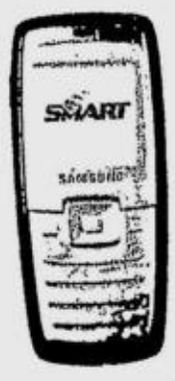

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# Thais foil RP women, capture Seaba title

**By Beth Celis**

A VENGEFUL THAILAND TEAM ended Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier's magical run with a 66-49 rout Saturday night, ruling the Southeast Asia Basketball (Seaba) Championships at the Saphan Hin gym in Phuket, Thailand.

Their egos pricked by the Filipinos' 80-76 victory in the eliminations, the taller Thais employed a tough zone defense to wipe out a 27-21 first quarter deficit and win pulling away.

It was the Filipinos' first loss after posting a four-game sweep of the eliminations and dumping the Indonesians, 72-44, in the semifinals on Thursday.

Already hampered by poor outside shooting, the Filipinos' woes were further compounded by their inability to box out the Thais, who boast two players over 6-feet.

The Korean-mentored Thais disposed of the favored Malaysians, the reigning Southeast Asian Games champions, 86-80, to forge the repeat showdown with RP-Cebuana which was formed just two months ago.

"We fought very, very hard till the end," said national coach Fritz Gaston. "We offer the silver cup to the Filipino people. We'll try to get back in the SEAG."

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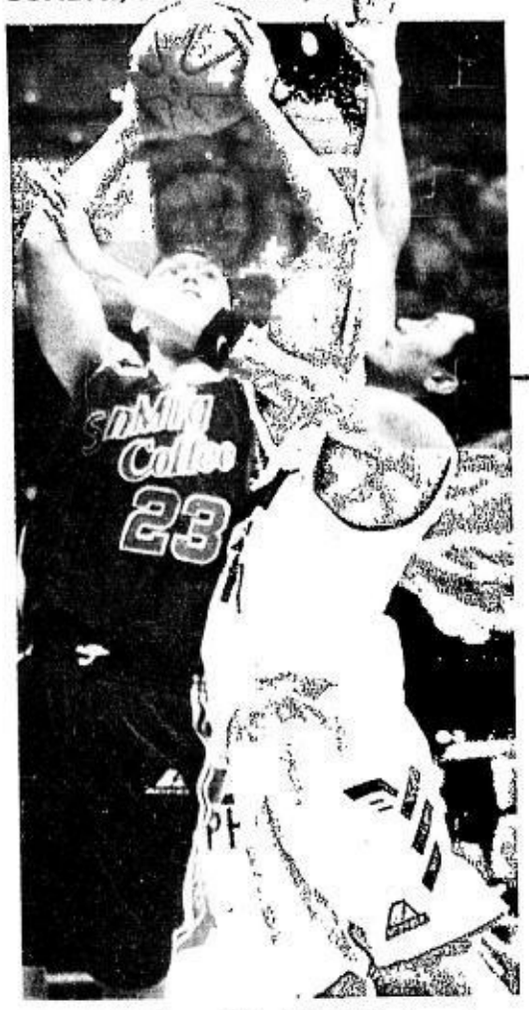


CLAIFORD Arao of San Mig Coffee barrels past the defense of Pharex defender Marvin Yambao in their PBL encoutner yesterday. RODEL ROTONI

# Toyota, San Mig thwart rivals

GAMES TUESDAY (*Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs RP Team
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Mail and More

**By Jasmine W. Payo**

KELVIN DELA PEÑA WASTED NO TIME justifying his place in the San Mig Coffee lineup.

Dela Peña buried a crucial jumper in the dwindling seconds as San Mig Coffee hacked out a 68-65 triumph over newcomer Pharex in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

"At the start, we were kind of hesitant to get him," said San Mig coach Koy Banal. "He's Fil-Canadian and all, but he has a great attitude."

Dela Peña, the reigning NCAA Most Valuable Player from Mapua, lifted the Coffee Kings to a 66-65 lead with 18.3 seconds remaining and Glen Bolocan sealed the win with two free throws after a crucial rebound.

Bonbon Custodio fired 22 points on an impressive 11-of-16 shooting clip for the Coffee Kings, who blew a 15-point advantage, 57-42, early in the fourth period.

Toyota Balintawak also posted a come-from-behind 81-78 triumph over Bacchus in the second game.

Paul Guerrero scored on a putback, followed by an RJ Jazul jumper for a 79-76 lead with 19.3 seconds left to cap the Road Kings' recovery from an 18-point hole, 43-61, in the second half.

JV Casio spearheaded the Road Kings' comeback in the fourth period by firing two

TOYOTA/ A23

# *QC karatekas shine in POF*

**By June Navarro**

RUNAWAY LEADER QUEZON CITY added four more karate gold medals while Manila swept chess on the penultimate day of the Philippine Olympic Festival-National Capital Region qualifying leg yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

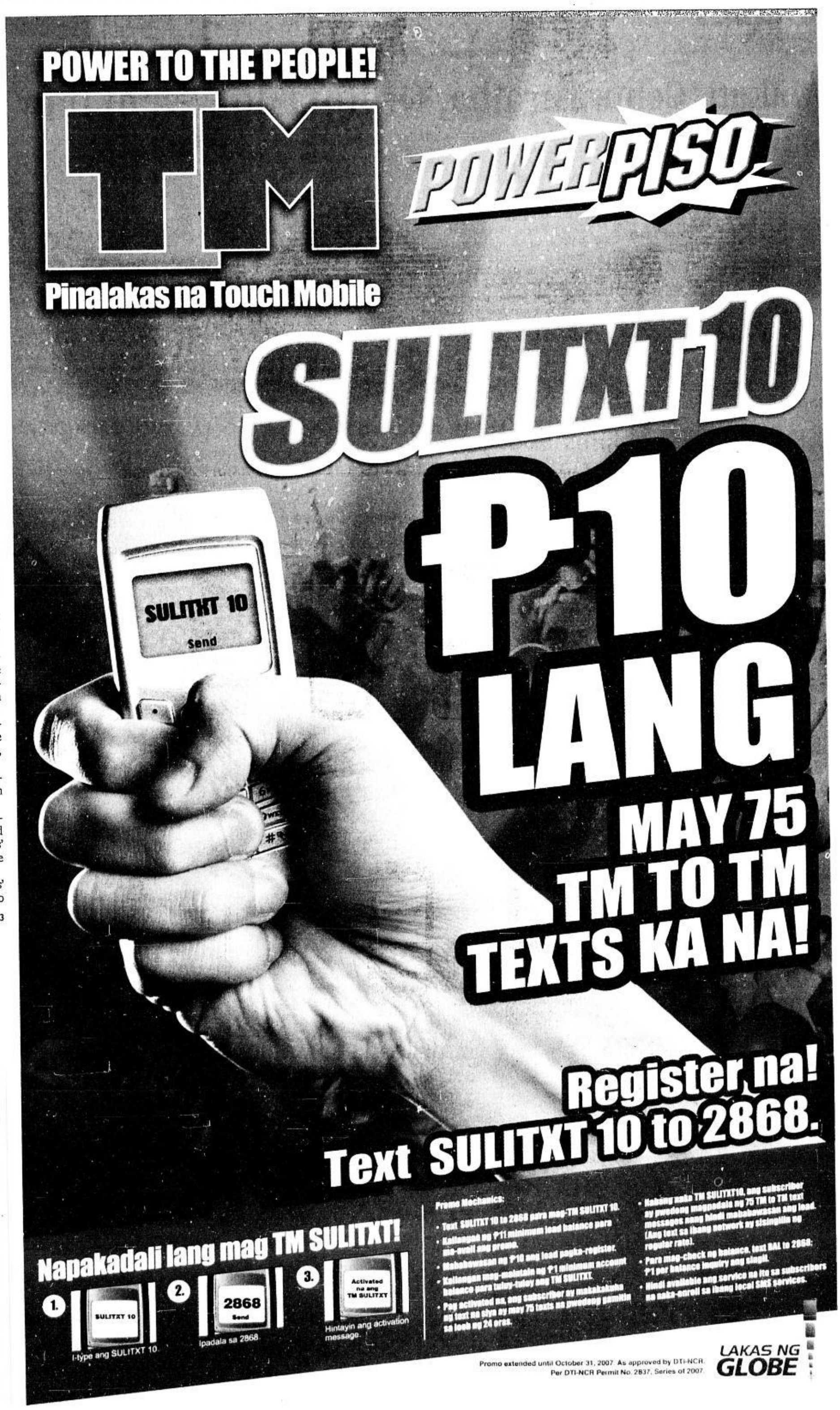
Alexander Emmanuel Lay set the tone for Quezon City's karate splurge by taking the gold in the kata event for boys' eight to nine years old.

Miguel Villasis (10-11 years old), John Conrad Allera (12-13) and Kevin Merdigona (14-15) followed it up with sparkling efforts that kept Quezon City on top of the medal standings with 41 gold medals on top of 26 silvers and 20 bronzes.

A double victory in chess courtesy of Jan Jodilyn Fronda and Ryan Mendoza plus a karatedo gold kept Manila in second place with a gold-silver-bronze harvest of 32-29-31.

Fronda snared the girls' 14-and-under

QC KARATEKAS/ A23



# Alcano chases historic crown

**FILIPINO RONATO ALCANO STAYED ON course for a historic achievement in the 32nd US Open at the Chesapeake Convention Center in Chesapeake, Virginia, late Friday.**

Unshaken by a loss in his previous outing, Alcano raced to a 10-0 lead and went on to post an 11-3 victory over Louis Ulrich, moving within three wins of becoming the first player ever to reign in the World Pool Championship, World 8-Ball Championship and US Open at the same time.

He won the world 9-ball title last year and the world 8-ball crown early this year.

The lanky Alcano was untouchable in his first six matches, beating among others compatriots Efren "Bata" Reyes, Jose "Amang" Parica and Warren Kiamco along the way.

But Alcano, Bugsy Promotion's top player crashed against Shane Van Boening, 4-11, derailing his bid for an automatic shot at the hot seat.

Alcano will next face the winner between countryman Ramil Gallego and German Ralf Souquet in a match going on at presstime.

After losing to Markus Juva in the first round, Gallego rebounded mightily by posting 11 straight victories that also moved him three wins shy of an improbable title conquest.

His last prey was former US Open champion Corey Deuel, 11-7.

The Japan-based Gallego counts countrymen Reyes, Parica, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Fil-Canadian Edwin Montal among his victims here. Gallego also beat former world champion Thorsten Hohmann and heavyweight Mike Davis.

"It's one of the most amazing runs I've ever seen in billiards," said Philippine billiard godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "Bebeng's endurance is unbelievable and he's winning over top caliber players." *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

RONATO Alcano: Third major title in sight. REUTERS

# RP cagebelles' battle cry

IT WASN'T ALL HARD WORK AND PRESsure for the ladies' basketball team in Phuket, Thailand. There were light moments too.

**IN HUDDLE**

*Beth Celis*

And it wasn't all basketball too. There was also a beauty contest where two contestants from each team—supposed to be the prettiest—were entered in the search for the 2007 Miss Seaba. The judges were composed of members of the media and the team captain of each squad.

I guess that was the reason we lost. The Philippines did not have a single media member in its delegation.

Our entries were Cassie Tioseco and Chiko Matsuno, who finished in the top 5. Declared Miss Seaba was a cagebelle from Singapore, who was described by Pato as "cute and very Chinese-looking."

Pato said she sang a Thai song which delighted everyone, including the judges.

"I donated a round trip, all-expenses paid ticket to the Philippines to the winner to show Fiba how happy we are to be back in the basketball scene," Pato said.

A cager from Thailand was first runner-up and and a Malaysian second runner-up.

More than the Miss Seaba title, according to Pato, what mattered to Chiko and Cassie was winning the Seaba championship.

I wonder if the candidates had to parade in gowns and swimsuits. Whatever, Pato said these girls could give Ms Earth contestants a run for their money.

* * *

**The following day after the beauty contest, it was back to serious business. The team was so focused, I was told. The girls were very determined to win, especially after the Glorietta bombing where several people were killed and scores injured.**

**"Let's make history!!!" was the battle cry. This is the first team to ever sweep the Seaba elims and the first team to beat both Thailand and Malaysia in one tournament.**

**Hopefully, it will also be the first team to win a Seaba title.**

* * *

Jack Ruby (not the assassin) had jumped out of bed hours before the break of dawn yesterday.

It was Jack's 38th birthday, but that was the least of his concern.

Being the opening day of the PBL's 25th season, the league's hardworking marketing chief was looking forward to a super busy day.

There wasn't going to be a celebration for the birthday boy.

* * *

**By 9 a.m., Jack was reporting that they had plastered a total of 200 PBL/V.Go sun visor stickers on the same number of private and public vehicles. The first PBL activity of the day started at 7 a.m. and would be followed by a motorcade, movie viewing, haircutting and a concert, among others, at The Arena in San Juan.**

**Jack was so excited. He had worked so hard to market the amateur cage league this season that he lost a few strands of his dark brown locks.**

**I noticed during the press conference held at Gerry's Grill last Thursday that he was now using gel (or is it mousse) to make his hair, which had gone limp, stand again.**

**On second thought, maybe he started losing his hair many months earlier when he was still working under the most stressful conditions in another cage league.**

* * *

PBL chair Cecilio Pedro of Hapee Toothpaste, in his short speech last Thursday, said it was the league's first presscon in years thanks to the efforts of Jack, who was too shy to accept credit. It was also the first time in years that the PBL will have a title sponsor—two, in fact, that's why the conference is being called '2008 PBL V.Go Extreme Cup.2

Ex-PBA star Abe King, now based in Seattle, Washington, tagged along to talk to PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad regarding the possibility of forming a team for Wrigleys Chewing Gum, where he and wife Ligaya work.

# Makati, Cebu batters target victory No. 3

PILOT SERIES champion Makati and Cebu try to sustain their early surge in Baseball Philippines' Series 2 as they gun for their third straight victories against Marikina and Taguig, respectively, at the resumption of action at the Rizal Baseball Stadium today.

**GAMES TODAY**
*(Rizal Baseball Stadium)*
7 a.m.—Marikina vs Makati
10:30 a.m.—Taguig vs Cebu
2 p.m.—Dumaguete vs Manila

The Mariners, who beat the Negros Slashers for the crown in the inaugural staging of the event last July, blanked the Manila Sharks, 4-0, while the Dolphins edged the Marikina Shoemakers, 4-1, last week to share the lead with two wins apiece in the tournament organized by Community Sports, Inc.

Makati and Marikina clash in the 7 a.m. opener of a triple-header with Cebu colliding with Taguig at 10:30 a.m. and Manila tangling with Dumaguete at 2 p.m. in a duel of winless squads.

# Turalba, Orduna do well in Italy

TUASON RACING-READY2RACE karters Juha Turalba and Joey Orduna came up with impressive finishes recently in the 2007 ROK World Cup at the South Garda Karting Circuit in Lonato, Italy.

The 14-year-old Turalba emerged the top Filipino finisher as he placed 12th out of 50 aspirants in the ROK Junior division. Posting a fastest laptime of 45.09 seconds, he wrapped up the 16-lap final race in 12 minutes and 11 seconds, trailing eventual champion Maciej Bernacik of Poland (12:01).

Orduna likewise emerged the best Filipino finisher in the Mini-ROK division, landing 16th in the 28-man field.

It was one tough weekend for the two karters whose World Cup stint was supported by Petron, Standard Insurance, Ford Racing, Oakley, Acer, Tuason Racing, AmbiPur, Goodyear, TonyKart, HJC Auto Helmets, AIM Racing Gauges, R2R Racing Suits and Alpinestars Racing Apparel.

JUHA Turalba with F1 champion Michael Schumacher in Lonato, Italy.

Turalba started at 25th but finished a strong 13th in the first elimination race. He was forced out of the second elimination race after his steering broke from hitting another karter.

Driving conservatively, Turalba placed fourth in the repecharge to qualify for the finals but had to start 32nd on the 34-man Pre-Final race.

Showing guts and nerves, Juha passed one driver after another and finished 16th in the Pre-Final. He continued his surge in the Final Race as he was already running 10th midway the race until exhaustion took its toll on the very last lap.

# Buncio leads Filipino Asean Cup qualifiers

FRESH FROM A ROAD-RACING victory, young rider Maico Buncio extended his domination with another masterful finish in the Road to Asean Cup-Philippine Yamaha Cup 2007 at the Carmona Racing Circuit recently.

The 17-year-old Buncio, who ended the 10-year reign of Jolet Jao in road racing recently, ruled the Expert Division of the Yamaha Cup by topping the two heats, which were worth 12 points.

He shoved to the back seat eventual second placer Jaime Barcial and third-ranked Rizaldy Canare. The two, together with Buncio, earned seats to the Yamaha Asean Cup in Malaysia on Dec. 14 to 16 in Penang, Malaysia.

The one-day Yamaha Cup, organized by EL Racing Tech president Ernie Leongson and sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA), was held to choose the eight members of the Philippine team that will join the Asian tournament.

The other five slots were garnered by Anthony Roman, Mark Anthony Barcial, Armando Canare Jr., Jeffrey Chan and Rowel Bongon.

**GOOD LUCK. NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla wishes coach Boysie Zamar the best of luck as his NBC-Spring Cooking Oil team departs for Malaysia to compete in the Penang Chief Minister-Asian basketball invitationals. Also in picture are the players and NBC secretary general Tito Palma.**

# *PNP Shooters win*

FORMER UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST STAR Ollan Omiping and Dennis Escalona came through with clutch plays down the stretch as the PNP Shooters stunned CKP 168, 71-68, in the MBT Corporate League Wednesday at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong City.

Escalona finished with 35 points while Omiping added 19 points for the Major Romualdo Lacandazo-managed squad.

Also scoring a big win in the tournament organized by Metro Basketball Tournaments Inc., was Mike Mancilla's Nougat Candy, which pulled off a 76-63 win over erstwhile unbeaten Rusty Lopez.

Alvin Vitug topscored for Nougat with 25 points, while Adrian Wong, Bimbo Dimagiba and former PBA star Alvin Teng combined for 34 points.

In other games, the Mighty Filter Kings beat Paritas Trading, 72-62; Jas Cellphone trounced NRTP Niños Pride, 80-68 and Wangs clobbered Convergys, 97-69.

# Formoso eyes post

ED FORMOSO, THE PHILIPPINE FOOTball federation's publicist and promoter, has declared his intention to run for the PFF presidency and has unveiled his plans and programs for the office through a website.

Named Our PFF (Our Pure Football Fed), the website (www.ourPFF.org) aims to spread a love for soccer among Filipinos.

"My vision is to grow a Pinoy football community website that will give footballers and fans an opportunity to contribute, through the Internet, to the growth and development of domestic football," Formoso stated on the website's home page. It is also a platform for Formoso to express his programs, plans and projects for the PFF, where he hopes to succeed current president Johnny Romualdez.

# LGBA Breeder race heats up

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS Association (LGBA) stag derby series, which has attracted 342 entries so far, resumes on Oct. 23 and 25 at the Araneta Coliseum featuring the third and final leg.

The LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year for 2007 will be crowned after the event backed by B-Meg Derby Ace, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes (Deep Impact B) and Joener Letada (Joener's) ruled the first leg while Boy Tanyag emerged as solo champion in the second leg.

However, Joey Abaquita/Mimi Itchon of Rizal (JA Sudden Strike MI), who made two runner-up finishes, were the overall leaders with 12 wins out of 14 fights.

Aylwyn/ Jeffrey/ Wilvin Sy of Batangas (JAM SB Farm) and Honey Yu/Dong Chung of Quezon Province (HYU Liberty 888) tallied 11.5 points each while Dr. Boy Tuazon (Chika Babe AUT) and Cito Alberto posted 11 apiece.

The entries of Louie Zerrudo, Joener Letada, Raffy Campos/Edwin Aranez posted 10 points each while Manuel Lui, Jong Morales and Ren Castro have 9.5 points.

# Sampaguita championship set

LOCAL HORSE RACING'S OUTstanding fillies and mares compete in the annual renewal of the Philracom "Sampaguita" distaff championship at the Santa Ana Park today.

Nine battle-scarred campaigners will be vying for the crown won last year by champion filly Eurobucks in a race set over a distance of 1,800 meters.

Heading the title chase is 2006 champion three-year-old filly and 2nd leg Triple Crown winner Special Edition set to be ridden by regular rider Dominador Borbe Jr. The four-year-old galloper owned and bred by businessman Val Cayco and trained by Nestor Manalang is a noted come-from-behind runner and should find the distance suited to her style.

RACING
**BY TOP CHOICE**

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Lady Cugat (3), Marque (4), Vickyval (2), Acquirement
Race 2—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Enjoyable (6), Make No Mistake (4), Andee's Rum (8), Real Proud Star (3)
Race 3—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Perfect Time (10), Look of Love (9), Kawdilwill (5), Panibugho (11), Letshaveaparty (4)
Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Prime Zone (6), Optimus Prime (5), Musashi (2), Sir Frederick/Grey Magic (8)
Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Barawanawest (1), Hazmagic (3), Maglov (7), Miss Lilipilly (8)
Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Paminsanminsan (4), Jigsaw Star (11), Tigerilic (5), Lord Brian (13), BMI Baby (8)
Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Special Edition (5), Sound of Silence (4), Chariot of Fire (3), Tellmenotles (1)
Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Raven (13), Masiado (12), Fabiola (11), Cheska Run (3), West Wild (8)
Race 9—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Classic Royale (7), China Girl (11), Gorgeous Sand (3), Words of Joy (2), Jewelmer (9)
Race 10—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Sa Wakas (6), Revelation (9), Expiditer (1), Infinite Passion (2), Anytime Anywhere (7)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Landed Visa (4), Yao Man (8), Reptoid (5), War Bird (9), Odyssey (10)
Race 12—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Bootlegs/Saintly Path (7), Lucky Joe (8), Suttor's Royal (5), Rent Black (9), So Gorgeous (2)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Dato's Pride (10), Now Showing (13), Go Go Elgema (7), Gung Ho (8), Macalelon (12), Tiger Ratfy/Classy Pages (3)

**CHAMPS: The University of the Philippines dragon boat rowing team jubilates as it receives a mock check for P75,000 after winning the recent Cali Party Responsibly Promo.**

# Mendoza shocks Canizares

FIFTH SEED JURENCE MENdoza pulled off a 6-0, 6-2 upset win over third seed Argil Lance Canizares yesterday to reach the boys' 12-under semifinals in the PCA Open Juniors Tennis Championships at the PCA outdoor court.

Mendoza, who won two golds and five bronzes in the 2006 Milo International Juniors in Malaysia, next faces No. 2 Hans Asistio, a 6-2, 7-5 winner over John Rey Rudas.

FEU'S ANNA Abanto foils a smash by Letran's Rossan Fajardo in their game Friday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Thai superstar makes Shakey's debut today

**GAMES TODAY (*The Arena*)**
3 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo
5 p.m.—FEU vs Lyceum

A THAI WHO IS TOUTED TO BE THE BEST among her compatriots who have strutted their wares here will make her much-awaited debut today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

Ateneo, which trained in Thailand in preparation for the tournament and the UAAP next month, will parade 5'10" Lithawat Kesinee against first conference champion University of Santo Tomas starting at 3 p.m.

The 26-year-old Kesinee, a member of Thailand's top volleyball club RBAC, has played in two SEA Games meets. She is said to be better than San Sebastian College's Jaroensri Bualee, who was last conference's MVP.

Ateneo's Thai imports during the first conference—Namphon Intuan and Kanchana Jindarat—were also highly-rated but sustained injuries.

Intuan played only five games and was replaced by Jindarat, who also got injured. The Lady Eagles retained Jindarat as trainer.

Despite the hype, UST coach Augusto Santamaria is unperturbed.

"Let's see what she can do," said Santamaria. "I have faith in my local crew."

A second win by the Tigresses will hand them the solo lead after they beat defending champion De La Salle in Sunday's opener.

In the main match, Far Eastern University guns for its second win in three games against Lyceum at 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, the league will announce today the winners of the first conference photo contest. INQUIRER lensman August dela Cruz is one of the finalists who will vie for the top prize of P20,000. *Romina S. Austria*

# China, Thailand send biggest Asian shooting delegations

SPORTS SUPERPOWER CHINA AND 24TH South East Asian Games host Thailand will be sending the most number of athletes to the 2007 Asian Clay Shooting Championship which the country will host on Oct. 25-31 at the PNSA-PSA Clay Target Shooting Range at the BuCor Compound in Muntinlupa, Manila.

The Chinese are sending a total of 18 athletes, while the Thais, the Filipinos' archrival for the overall title in the SEAG in December, have entered 19 shooters in the week-long event.

But India, which has only six shooters on its roster, packs perhaps the deadliest shooters in the field, owing to their impressive performance in last year's edition of the Asian Clay shootfest held in Singapore.

The Indians swept the top three places in the trap individual men's event, won the gold in the double trap individual men's side, and also bagged top honors in the double trap team men's event. It will be sending practically the same roster to the meet.

Qatar, which is sending a 13-man squad here, returns to action with last year's individual skeet men's

champion Nasser Al-Attiya and the men's skeet team that placed fourth in Singapore.

The Filipinos will be led by reigning trap champion Carlos Carag and fellow trap shooters Olympian Jethro Dionisio, Eric Ang, Raul Ramon Arambulo and Andrew Balasbas, and skeet specialists Paul Brian Rosario, Patricio Bernardo and Gabriel Tong.

The women's side will have Ma. Theresa Lara, Jade de Guzman, Marissa Floreindo and Gay Corral.

A CONFIDENT Harbour Centre crew, led by team owner Mikee Romero (center) plunges into action Tuesday.

# *Toyota, San Mig triumph*

From page A21

key triples in a 17-0 charge that pushed Bacchus on top, 73-70, at the 2:31 mark.

After dela Peña's jumper, Emer Oreta bungled Pharex's inbound pass, giving the Coffee Kings another lucky break in the closing seconds.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**SAN MIG COFFEE 68**—Custodio 22, Dela Peña 11, Bolocon 10, Pascual 6, Magpayo 6, Dalafu 4, Arao 3, Rañeses 2, Saldua 2, Del Rosario 2, Sorongon 0, Angeles 0.

**PHAREX 65**—Matias 27, Co 12, Espiritu 6, Allera 5, De Guzman 4, Alfad 4, Oreta 3, Burtscher 2, Yambao 2, Gerilla 0, Soriano 0.

**Quarters:** 15-14, 24-40, 54-65, 81-78

**Second Game**

**TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 81**—Jazul 11, Guerrero 11, Caslo 11, Aldave 8, Jaime 8, Dedicatoria 7, Rodriguez 7, Villanueva 6, Sena 4, Faundo 4, Alcaraz 3, Cole 1, Balgos 0, Hayes 0, Sta. Maria 0.

**BACCHUS 78**—Llagas 15, Cagoco 10, Thiele 9, Dizon 8, Fampulme 8, Martinez 7, Raymundo 5, Mondragon 4, Labagala 4, Viardo 4, Guevarra 2, Dela Cruz 2, Williams 0, Mendoza 0.

**Quarters:** 15-14, 24-40, 54-65, 81-78

# QC karatekas shine

From page A21

crown by capping a five-game sweep with a victory over Marikina City's Giane April Paez while Mendoza assembled 4.5 points to rule the open category.

OJ Delos Santos provided the other gold for Manila after ruling the boys' kata for 16 and above in the week-long event.

Pasig City was a far third with a 20-gold, 4-silver and five-bronze medal haul followed by Las Piñas with 10-25-10 medal output.

Rounding up the top 10 in this meet organized by National Sports Association officials headed by POC chair Robert Aventajado were Taguig (8-11-15), Makati (4-7-4), Parañaque (3-12-9), Marikina (3-1-11), Valenzuela (2-6-1) and Pateros (2-0-1).

Jesus Alfonso Datu of Taguig took the only other chess gold medal by topping the boys' 20-and-under division with four out a possible five points.

Pasay barged into the medal tally after Oloroso Kinsas snared the boys' 6-7 kata gold.

# Golf Show draws record crowd

THE SHOW WENT ON AND COULD GO ON exceeding everybody's expectations.

Despite the fear caused by the bomb explosion in a major mall, golf enthusiasts came in droves to attend the Philippine International Golf Show at the SM MegaMall in its first two days.

"Surprisingly, the turnout has been at a very good pace and the first day actually was one of the best we've had," said Gerald Raymundo president of the organizing Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines.

When the show—Asia's longest-running trade exhibit for golf—closes today Raymundo believes all the 70 exhibitors occupying the 100 booths will have all the reason to celebrate in one way for another.

"Whether in sales, marketing exposure or networking, I think we've already achieved our goals," said Raymundo.

Organizers, however, are taking no chances and have beefed up security. Additional security personnel and K-9 teams from both SM MegaMall and GDAP will ensure the safety of Golf Show visitors.

Elaine Gatchalian exhibit manager of Fairs & More said that 3,507 visitors came on the first day as compared to 2,566 last year. They are confident that they can at least match the visitor count of 7,557 the last time up.

"We're defying the odds so to speak and we're expecting a grand finish on Sunday," she said.

This year's show is backed by American Eye Center as silver sponsor and Revicon Max, Metrobank Platinum and Megatrade Hall as bronze sponsors.

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| BMW 120i Sport | Titanium Silver | 2005 | 2,250,000.00 | 1,600,000.00 |
| BMW 320i Executive | Arctic | 2006 | 2,640,000.00 | 2,000,000.00 |
| BMW 320i Executive | Titanium Silver | 2006 | 2,640,000.00 | 2,000,000.00 |
| BMW 320i Executive | Titanium Silver | 2006 | 2,640,000.00 | 2,000,000.00 |
| BMW 320i LE | Black Sapphire | 2006 | 2,690,000.00 | 2,250,000.00 |
| BMW X5 3.0i Executive | Titanium Silver | 2005 | 5,810,000.00 | 4,200,000.00 |

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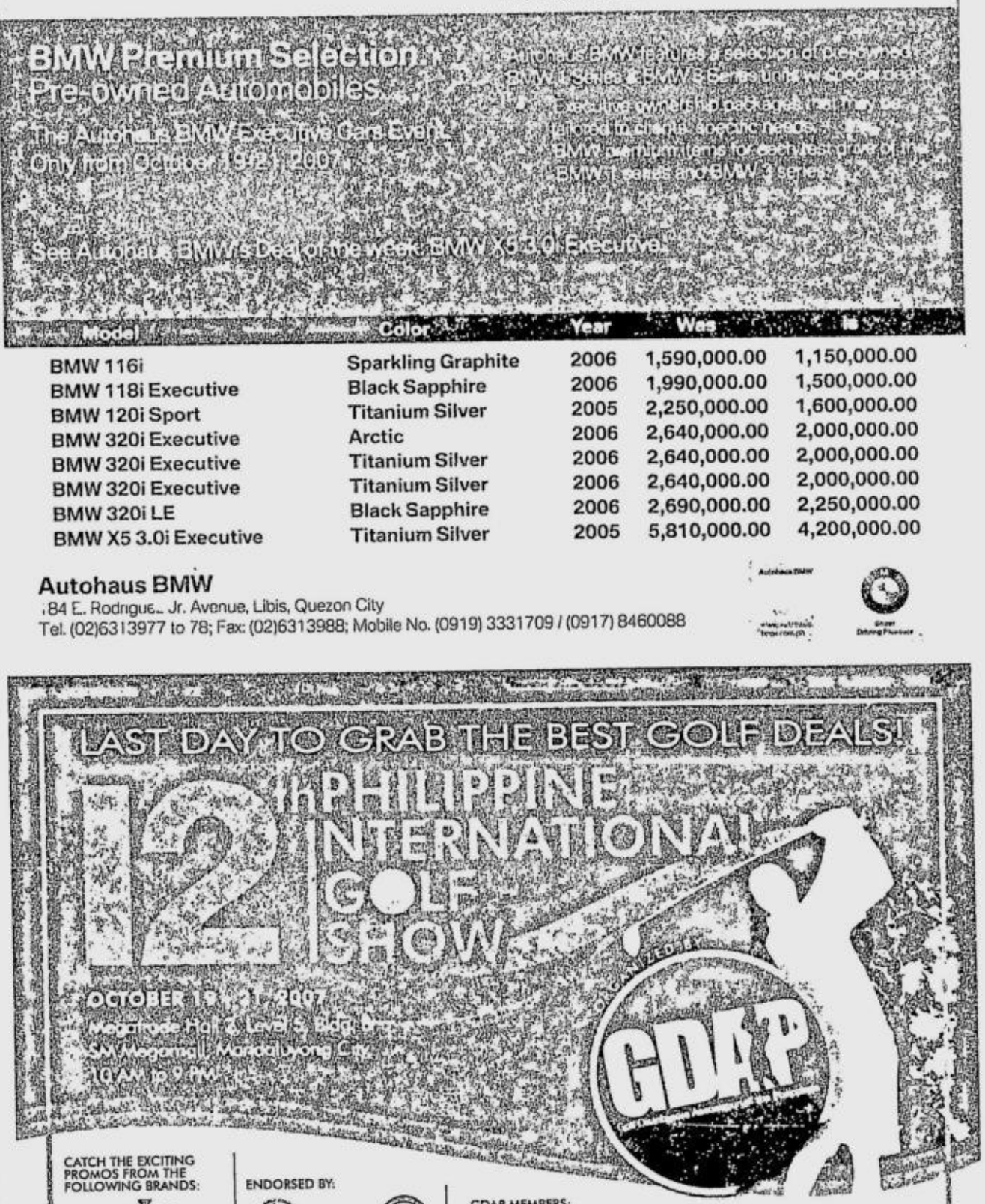

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

# Torre: Yankee offer was an insult

RYE BROOK, NEW YORK—JOE TORRE FELT insulted by the New York Yankees' contract offer, explaining Friday that he simply couldn't accept a one-year extension with a pay cut to remain as manager of the Major League Baseball club.

"The fact that somebody is reducing your salary is just telling me they're not satisfied with what you're doing," Torre said Friday at a packed news conference. "There really was no negotiation involved. I was hoping there would be, but there wasn't."

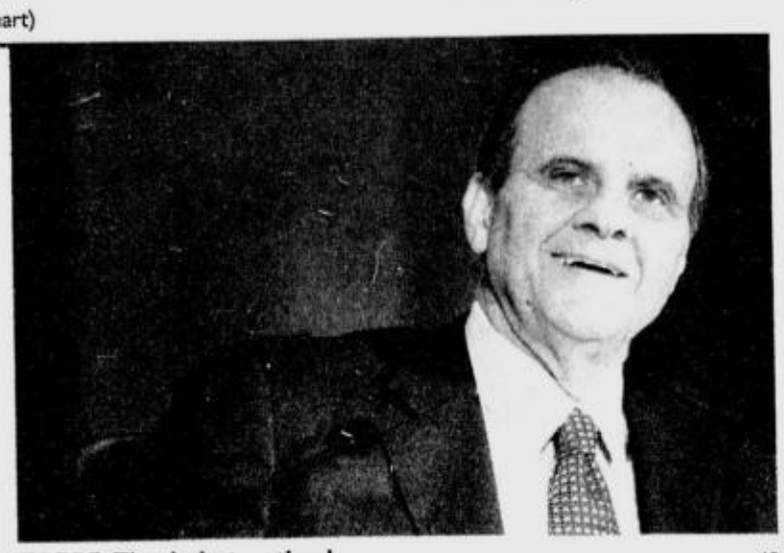
"If somebody wants you to do a job, if it takes them two weeks to figure out, yeah, we want to do this, should do this, yeah, you're a little suspicious," he added. "If somebody wanted me to manage here, I would be managing here."

Torre turned down a $5 million, one-year contract—$2.5 million less than he made this season—on Thursday ending a 12-year stint as manager of the Yankees that included playoff berths every year, four World Series titles but a first-round exit from the playoffs the past three seasons.

Sitting at a desk before a backdrop of Yankees navy blue—but no logo behind him—Torre admitted he was nervous, though he took questions for about an hour.

His voice trembled at times, especially when he spoke of his players, as his wife and sister stood by his side. Torre said his 12 years with the Yankees were the best time of his professional life, but he hasn't ruled out managing elsewhere.

"I'm free to listen right now," he said. *AP*



**TORRE:** Thanks but no thanks AP

# Pucay rules Asean Tour second leg

By Musong R. Castillo

**LIPA CITY—DISPLAYING A KILLER'S instinct he promised, Mars Pucay attacked at every chance and left Orlan Sumcad in his wake to handily win the Asean Tour's second leg with a closing four-under-par 68.**

Save for a three-putt bogey 6 on No. 14, the 36-year-old Pucay was super steady, finishing with birdies in his last two holes to win by three strokes over a hard-finishing Rey Pagunsan with an eight-under 280 total.

"There was no pressure on my part," said Pucay, who finished tied for fifth and picked up a record payday of close to $15,000 in an Asian Tour leg in China last month.

"I just played my game out there though I knew that there were some holes where I needed to be aggressive."

Pucay, who started the day tied with Sumcad for the lead, won $4,895 out of the total pot of $30,000.

But more than the money, Pucay said that this win boosted his confidence no end with the lucrative legs of the Asian Tour, counting the $1 million Barclay's Singapore Open in two weeks, coming up.

"Right now, that's my focus, to keep my Asian Tour card by finishing in the Top 60 of the money list," said Pucay, a former driving help range in Baguio. "This (win) is certainly a good send-off for me."

Pagunsan, who started with a 75 but slowly crept back into contention after a 69 and a 70, returned a 69 and nipped Sumcad for second spot, his eagle on the par-5 17th proving the key after he missed the 18th green for his third bogey of the round.

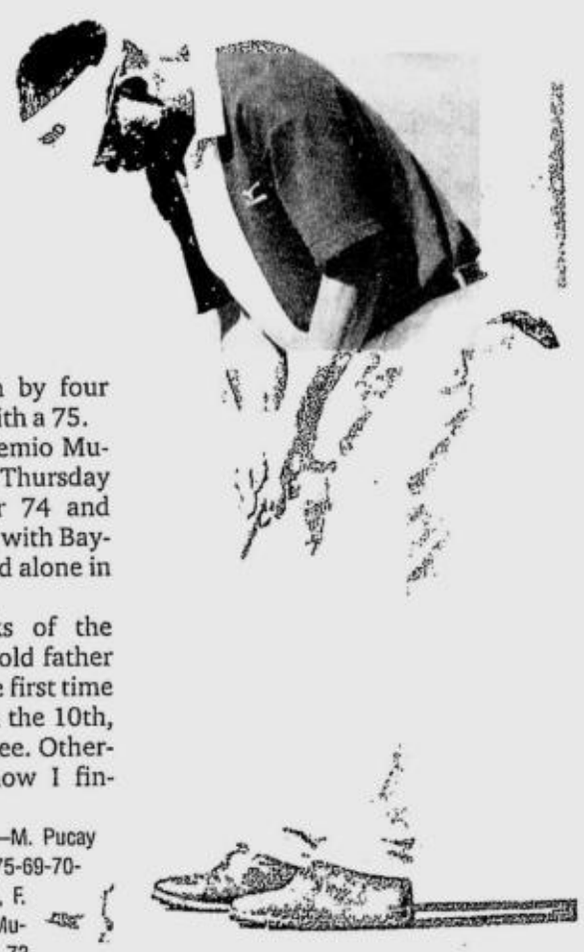
Sumcad, who calls this windswept course home, finished at 284 still worth $1,910 but almost $1,500 less than what Pagunsan received.

Ferdinand Aunzo was the top amateur, closing with a 71 to actually finish tied with Sumcad and win over Canlubang ace Jay Bayron by four strokes. Bayron struggled with a 75.

Second-round leader Artemio Murakami, flu-stricken since Thursday night, hacked out another 74 and wound up sharing fifth spot with Bayron, while Jun Rates finished alone in seventh with a 289.

"It was just the breaks of the game," Sumcad, a 36-year-old father of two, said in Filipino. "The first time I fell out of the lead was on the 10th, when my approach, hit a tree. Otherwise, I'm satisfied with how I finished."

**The Final Top 20 scores:** 280—M. Pucay 71-72-69-68; 283—R. Pagunsan 75-69-70-69; 284—O. Sumcad 70-71-71-72, F. Aunzo (a) 71-73-69-71; 288—A. Murakami 71-69-74-74, J. Bayron (a) 73-72-68-75; 289—J. Rates 73-73-69-74; 290—D. Zarate 69-75-77-69, A. Que 72-76-71-71, M. Bibat (a) 75-72-72-71; 291—M. Sasidaran (Mal) 73-72-73-72, M. Dumandan 74-74-73-70; 292—D. Sanchez 82-69-72-69, N. Vichittryuthasastr (Tha) 68-74-76-74, J. Delariarte 71-76-70-75, N. Tantipokhakul (Tha) 73-71-73-75; 293—R. Sinfuego 71-77-71-74, R. Jamnong (Tha) 70-75-73-75, A. Lascuna 72-72-74-75, R. Pactolerin 72-78-75-69, P. Miñoza 77-73-69-75.



**PUCAY:** No pressure PDI PHOTO

# Schilling holds key to Sox fate

BOSTON—CURT SCHILLING ALREADY has his place in baseball folklore but he will have another chance to add to his reputation on Saturday when the Boston Red Sox meet the Cleveland Indians in a must-win Game Six at Fenway Park.

Josh Beckett gave Schilling a tough act to follow, tossing an eight-inning masterpiece on Thursday as the Red Sox fought off elimination with a 7-1 win to trim Cleveland's American League Championship Series lead to 3-2.

Now it is up to Schilling to prove there is still magic left in his 40-year-old right arm.

It was a similar situation in 2004 when Schilling led the Red Sox past the Yankees despite a bloodied foot to help end Boston's 86-year title drought.

"A lot of people are going to try to draw parallels to the things that happened in 2004, and to some degree maybe you can," Schilling told reporters. "I was basically pitching on a broken foot with a lot less stuff than I have now, and I gave up one run over seven innings.

"There's no excuse for me not to be able to go out tomorrow with what I have now, and if I can execute perfectly, I can pitch as good, if not better." *Reuters*

**ROGER** Federer cranks a serve to Feliciano Lopez. AFP

## *Nalbandian ousts Nadal*

MADRID, SPAIN—DAVID NALbandian capitalized on an uncommonly error-prone Rafael Nadal and beat the second-ranked Spaniard, 6-1, 6-2, Friday to reach the semifinals at the Madrid Masters.

Nadal, playing in his first tournament in five weeks to treat tendinitis in both knees, hit five winners but had 29 unforced errors against Nalbandian.

"It's not an easy match to analyze. It's hard to play worse, which makes it a lot easier to go forward from this," Nadal said.

It was Nadal's most lopsided loss since Julien Benneteau beat him 6-3, 6-0 in Lyon three years ago.

The 33rd-ranked Argentine next plays Novak Djokovic, who earlier beat Mario Ancic of Croatia, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Roger Federer defeated Feliciano Lopez, 7-6 (4), 6-4, to set up a matchup against 112th-ranked Nicolas Kiefer, who beat the fifth seed, Fernando Gonzalez, 7-6 (5), 6-2. *AP*

# Acsat duo reaches semis

SUBIC BAY—MARY ANNE CALLEJA AND Apple Sebastian overcame the hurdles before them and clinched a semifinal berth in the 2007 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Battle of Champions at the Boardwalk Beach.

The Asian College of Science and Technology duo tripped Ingrid Verayo and St. Francis of Assisi College's Roma Jaro, 21-17, before surviving Arellano University bets Joy Ibuyan and Cherry Ferrer, 21-19, to emerge unbeaten after four games in Group B.

They joined the powerhouse duo of Sheryl Laborte and Jenny Torres in the crossover semis, along with Group B survivor Dang Ruiz and Anja Echavez.

Laborte and Torres swept their three-game elimination-round assignment in Group A after they put away Olivarez College campaigners Roseanne Mercado and Rowena Felices, 21-15.

Felices and Mercado still made it to the semis after they finished Group A with a 2-1 win-loss slate.

Ruiz and Echavez lost their last match with Jaro and Verayo, who ended up sharing the same 2-2 win-loss slate with Jessica Ticala and Mary Natividad. But their better tiebreak record put them in a semis showdown with Torres and Laborte, who are going for a second consecutive title.

**LABORTE:** Second title in sight RYAN LIM

# RP solar car entry passes race scrutiny

SINAG, THE FIRST PHILIPPINE SOLAR powered car, passed the "scrutineering" phase Friday in preparation for the 20th Panasonic World Solar Challenge firing off Oct. 21 in Darwin, Australia.

The solar car, built by students from De La Salle University-Manila underwent thorough mechanical and electrical checks to make sure that it conforms to the competition's rules and regulations.

The car's batteries were inspected, properly labelled and secured to prevent tampering and unauthorized usage.

The 295-kg Sinag was an instant hit during scrutiny by race officials, who were amazed by the car's stability and safety compliance. The committee told members of the all-Filipino team that the car has "perfected the scrutineering [phase]."

"The Philippines' entry really did great today," said Jacqui Williams of the WSC Committee.

"By passing the scrutineering today, we can now prepare and focus our efforts on the race," overall technical team leader Rene Fernandez said.

Team Sinag's members, headed by Fernandez, also hurdled the cross-examination from the event's organizing committee, paving the way for the RP entry's participation in the 3,000-km race from Darwin to Adelaide.

In fact, participants from other countries have been impressed by the Philippines' entry.

"Many of them said our car is really sturdy and stable," said Robert Obiles, overall student leader of Team Sinag.

"They found our triple shock absorber rear suspension very unique," said Mico Villena, the team's mechanical student leader.

Sinag's triple shock absorber rear suspension allows reduced fishtailing and a smoother, more stable ride. Solar cars from other teams only feature dual suspension, making the Philippine entry the only solar car with this unique suspension feature.

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR SINAG!

PINOY YOUTH TO RACE FOR A GREENER FUTURE

The fire of optimism burns brighter than ever in the hearts of Team SINAG, who are all set and ready to complete the World Solar Challenge in Australia starting today.

From today until October 28, SINAG will be making its way across the Australian continent through the harsh terrain of the Outback in 8 days or less to finish the prestigious race.

Featuring all-Filipino made materials, the SINAG solar car is an embodiment of a threefold message: that the Philippines is blessed with great potential for tapping renewable energy sources such as solar power; that the Philippines produces some of the most efficient solar cells in the world; and that we as a nation working together as a team can succeed in a challenging international competition.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to carry the torch for the Filipino people on a path that no one has yet traversed," said Philippine Solar Car Challenge Society, Inc. (PSCS) Chairman Vince Perez. "They bring with them, in their hearts and minds, the pride of a nation whose prayers and hopes are with them every step of the way."

"We've come this far and there's no turning back. We are determined to bring the Philippine flag to the finish line!" rallied SINAG Lead Driver Eric Tan.

SINAG

Sinag is sponsored by: De La Salle University, Ford Group Philippines, Motolite, Philippine Airlines, San Miguel Corporation, Shell, Sunpower, X-Freight and Venture

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

■ **Local plants best** for food, medicines /B2

■ **Ateneo students new** financial wizards /B3

# Food scientist produces Bicol's first sweet pineapple wine

## Now tests exotic fruits for wine-making

**DR. PURITA** Balean urges customers to taste her wines.

PHOTOS BY NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

**By Ephraim Aguilar**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

TABACO CITY—MONEY sleeps in the local wine-making business, says Dr. Purita Balean, 64, of Barangay Bombon in this city.

But having found her retirement life in this enterprise, there's no stopping her from expanding her shelf.

Shortly after her accidental venture into the manufacture and selling of Bicol region's first "indigenous red wine" in 2004, Balean frequently experimented on formulating other wine varieties that could be marketed.

Eventually, in her personal laboratory was conceived the "sweet queen pineapple wine," which is now recognized as Bicol region's first ever wine made out of the "formosa" fruit.

The formosa, Balean explains, is the sweetest pineapple variety in the country abundantly produced in and exported from Camarines Norte province.

"I have my own small laboratory at home where I get to try different formulations. If we have the healthy pineapple juice, I told myself, then why not wine?" Balean said.

She added that pineapple wine, which has 10.2 percent alcohol content, complements the red berry wine, which has 6.3 percent alcohol content based on the analysis of the Department of Science and Technology in Bicol.

"The red wine would serve more as a ladies' drink while the pineapple wine appealed to heavier drinkers, mostly men," Balean said.

"I would not want to develop wines of higher alcohol content since my wines are only meant for social drinking and family occasions," she added.

Balean would always tell her buyers of the health benefits of the wine she manufactures.

She said what inspired her are the good testimonies of people about her wine.

"Old people would say it helps them sleep well at night. Women would tell me about its soothing effect on menstrual cramps," Balean cited.

She said the wine also aids in digestion and has anti-oxidants that are good for the skin and the heart.

### Exotic fruits

Balean said she always wanted to explore the use of exotic fruits for wine-making.

Balean's sweet red berry wine is an indigenous wine blended from the Syzygium fruits or berries, such as what are natively known as "*hagis, igot, baligang, makopa, tambis*, and *zambo*."

The Syzygium is a genus of flowering plants that belongs to the myrtle family of around 500 species and grows in tropical and subtropical regions.

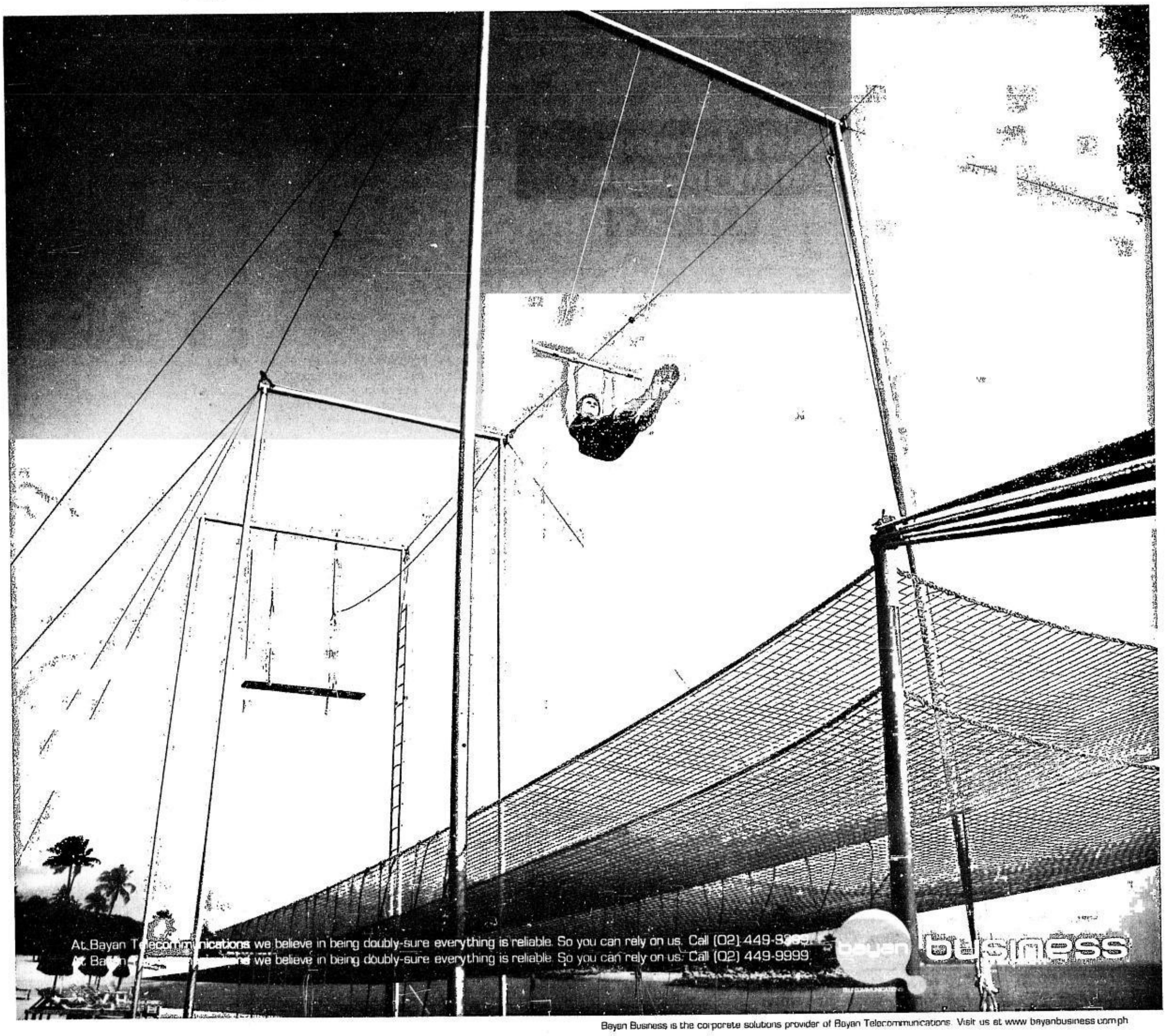
Balean noticed these fruits scattered on the ground when, one day, she and her husband visited their small farm at the foot of Mayon Volcano in 1990.

"The fruits fermenting on the ground produced a smell that reminded me of the wine my professor made in Scotland," said Balean, who finished a masters degree in Food Science and Microbiology at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1986.

She said her laboratory exposures in Strathclyde, where she studied through a World Bank-funded scholarship, inspired her to conduct her own experiments.

FOOD/ B2

**PINEAPPLE** wine made from formosa, the sweetest pineapple variety in the country.

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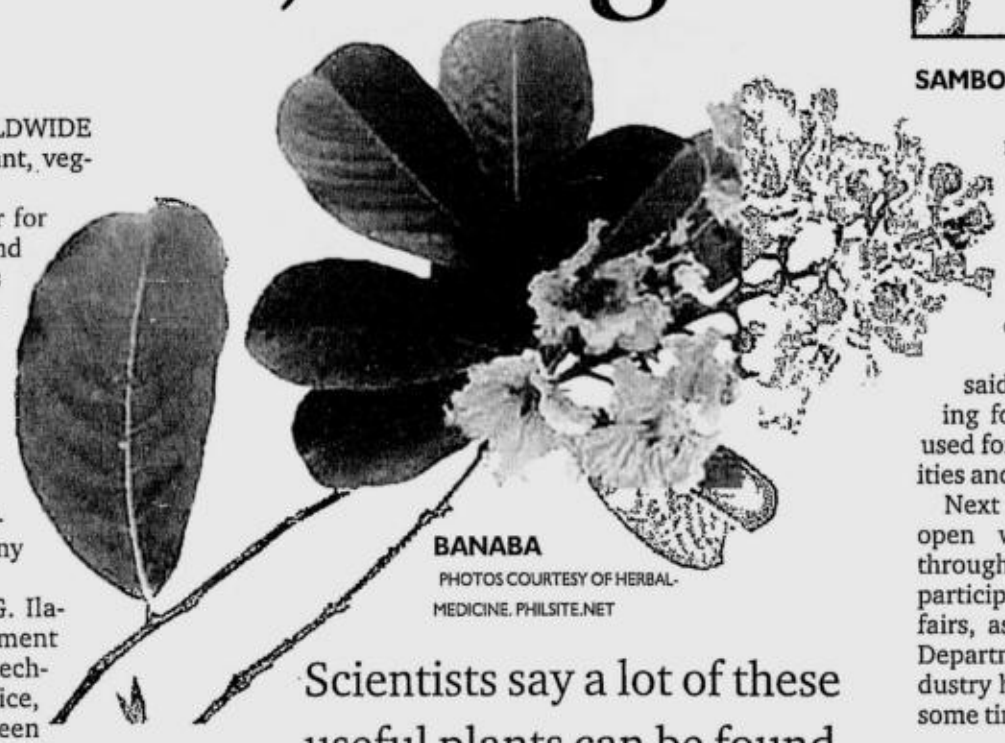
# RP plants best for food, drugs

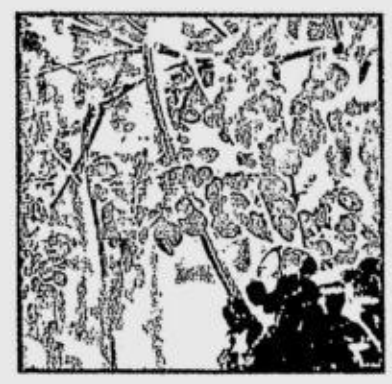
By Amy R. Remo



BANABA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HERBAL-MEDICINE. PHILSITE.NET

SAMBONG



MALUNGGAY

LAGUNDI

## Scientists say a lot of these useful plants can be found right in our own backyard

THERE'S A MAD, WORLDWIDE rush to find the "it" plant, vegetable and fruit.

As consumers clamor for everything natural and organic, researchers and scientists worldwide have been on a frantic hunt for the best sources of natural ingredients for food, medicines and cosmetics.

In the Philippines, scientists need not look any further.

According to Alice G. Ilaga, head of the Department of Agriculture's Biotechnology Program Office, much has already been written about the country's "indigenous vegetables" as sources of antioxidants, healthy oils and other useful substances.

In fact, most of these plants are already being used as herbal medicines in the past centuries.

"We have the advantage as a tropical country, because we can find a lot of these useful plants right in our own backyard," she said.

Ilaga said the DA-BPO is currently eyeing several plants and vegetables, seen currently as among the most promising of the lot.

"First on the list, of course, is malunggay. Then you have sambong, banaba and lagundi," she said. "These have been found to contain active pharmaceutical ingredients."

The DA-BPO's list goes even further to include mangosteen, chichirica, luyang dilaw, saluyot, bawang and atswete.

### No widescale propagation

Despite the abundance of these plants in the country, there is however, no widescale propagation nor are there any efforts to extract substances due to the absence of facilities and standards.

So far, only a few private firms have put their money on these indigenous veggies.

"Unfortunately, the Philippines has yet to tap the $1-billion world market for natural ingredients. As of now, our market share is probably very insignificant, at less than one percent," she explained.

To show how small the local industry is, Ilaga noted that the current supply of these veggies, such as the malunggay, could not even satisfy the needs of its own domestic market yet.

For the Philippines to take a share of the billion-dollar market, Ilaga said the government should first identify which plants, veggies or fruits it would focus on.

"We have already commissioned a study to assess and validate the world market and identify the 10 most in demand commodities, which the country can potentially supply," she said.

The DA-BPO expects to receive the results of the study by end-November, after which it would revise its own list of potential plants.

After identifying which plants it would focus on, the Philippines must also prepare and ensure an ample supply of the necessary planting materials for a particular crop, such as seeds and inoculants, Ilaga said.

### Biotechnology critical

In this case, biotechnology is critical for the mass propagation of planting materials through tissue culture, for instance.

"But what is even more critical is to formulate standards from the farming practices, down to the extraction of the oils and substances needed from a plant or vegetable," she stressed.

Ilaga explained that benchmarks are needed to ensure that all raw materials that would be exported by the country would have quality at par with world standards.

For this reason, Ilaga said they have been lobbying for funds, which will be used for the clinical trials, facilities and further studies.

Next step, she said, was to open world export markets through trade missions and participation in exhibits and fairs, as what the DA and the Department of Trade and Industry has been doing for quite some time.

### Lots of hard work

But despite the fact that the Philippines already has much of these much-coveted resources and their respective scientific researches, a lot of hard work has yet to be done.

Ilaga even admits that it may take three to five years before the country could fully develop its own natural ingredients industry.

In the meantime, the DA-BPO has focused much of its efforts in preparing the Philippine market to grab a bigger share of the lucrative billion-dollar industry.

As such, the researches and clinical trials continue, particularly for the 10 promising indigenous plants, four of which had been described briefly by Ilaga.

### Malunggay

Dubbed as the "miracle vegetable," the lowly malunggay has been proven to provide numerous benefits, using its pods, flowers, leaves, oil, roots and seeds.

Malunggay, or horseradish tree (scientific name, *Moringa oleifera L.*), has been found by biochemists and molecular anthropologists to be rich in vitamin C and A, iron and high density lipoprotein (HDL) or good cholesterol.

It can also hike male potency and be used as feedstock for biofuels.

Ilaga said that according to private sector projections, some 500,000 hectares of land are needed to meet the domestic requirement for malunggay.

For now, there are only several malunggay nurseries nationwide, each covering some one to 10 hectares of land.

### Sambong

According to Ilaga, sambong contains essential oils, such as camphor, which can be used to treat colds; Borneol, which can be used for anticancer medicines; and powder, which can reportedly dissolve kidney stones.

Meanwhile, published researches indicate that sambong (*Blumea Balsamifera*) have "antidiarrhetic and antigastralgic properties."

Sambong can also be used as an expectorant and can be given for worms and dysentery.

Known as one of the most commonly used medicinal herbs, sambong is a "diuretic, and is used in cases of hypertension and mild to moderate congestive heart failure."

Sambong is also one of 10 herbs that have been approved by the Department of Health. (Additional source: www.philippineherbs.com/sambong)

### Banaba

Ilaga explained that Banaba has long been popularized by the Japanese in the form of a tea, and has been believed to contain antiobesity substances.

She added that they are currently studying the corosolic acid found in banaba, which is believed to help cure diabetes.

According to published researches, Banaba can indeed help cure diabetes, fight obesity, regulate blood pressure, aid the digestive system and ease urination.

Findings have shown that for centuries, banaba has been used in Filipino folkloric herbal medicine for the treatment of diabetes.

Also known as Queen's Flower, Crepe Myrtle and the Pride of India, banaba has been found to contain high concentrations of dietary fiber and minerals such as zinc and magnesium. (Additional source: http://herbal-medicine.philsite.net/)

### Lagundi

As for lagundi, Ilaga says its substances can treat colds, flu and asthma effectively.

True enough, published researches have shown that lagundi, which contains Chrysoplenol D, can provide relief from asthma, pharyngitis, rheumatism, dyspepsia, boils, diarrhea, cough, colds, fever and flu and other bronchopulmonary disorders.

Chrysoplenol D is a "substance with antihistamine properties and muscle relaxant."

Studies have likewise shown that Lagundi (scientific name: *Vitex negundo*) "can prevent the body's production of leukotrienes which are released during an asthma attack."

Lagundi has been found useful for the removal of worms and boils.

Its leaves, flowers, seeds and root can all be used as herbal medicine. (Additional source: http://herbal-medicine.philsite.net/)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**Time:** 10 am to 8 pm
**Venue:** SM Megamall Conference Center, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall, Ortigas Complex, EDSA, Philippines
**Seminar Rate:** P3,000.00* / participant
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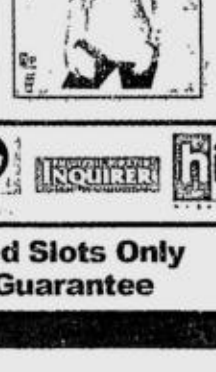

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# Food scientist produces ... From page B1

Balean never knew that a 45-minute walk in their farm in Sto. Domingo town in Albay, would eventually yield Bicol's first indigenous red wine.

"I want to focus in making products out of our native raw materials, like wine out of our exotic, homegrown fruits," Balean said.

The pineapples Balean uses in wine-making all come from Daet town in Camarines Norte province, while the berries for the red wine come from fertile grounds at the foot of Mayon Volcano.

Unlike the berries that are seasonal, the pineapples are available all year round.

Balean said wine-making is a meticulous enterprise and the kind of fruits and how they are processed determine the quality of the wine.

She said she would teach the farmers and the gatherers how to properly handle the fruits and would make them taste the wine that comes from their own harvests.

### Marketability

Through the technical assistance given by the Department of Trade and Industry, Balean was able to improve the packaging of her wine.

Trademarked as "Hannie," the wines were named after Balean's daughter, who showed early interest in business but died early due to a heart ailment.

The wines, which have no preservatives, are sealed in bottles accented with netted abaca ropes and a simple sticker label.

The sweetness of the pineapple wine is balanced by refreshing acidity, said Balean, while the red wine remains as the all-time favorite because of its more popular health and culinary benefits.

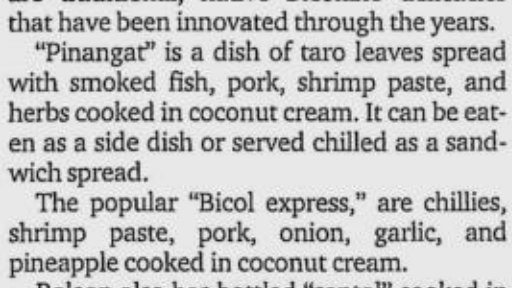
Balean said the peak season of her wine business is from October to December and during the Holy Week and special holidays when family gatherings would call for drinking sprees.

The two wines come in 350 ml for only P125 and 750 ml for P225.

"Homemade wines in other countries are more expensive than those commercially manufactured but that is not the case in our country," said Balean.

Nonetheless, she said, she sees a good future in wine-making, especially if it makes use of indigenous and native materials as they are unique and has great export potentials.

"However, it will need a bigger capital, more technologies, a bigger workforce to meet the demands in the export market," Balean said.



COOKED santol in coconut cream sold at P55

### Food items

For the meantime that her wine-business is taking time to develop, Balean also ventured into the manufacture of food products to augment her income and to have something that will complement her wine drinks.

She now manufactures bottled "pinangat" and "Bicol express" at P60 per bottle.

Both the pinangat and the Bicol express are traditional, native Bicolano delicacies that have been innovated through the years.

"Pinangat" is a dish of taro leaves spread with smoked fish, pork, shrimp paste, and herbs cooked in coconut cream. It can be eaten as a side dish or served chilled as a sandwich spread.

The popular "Bicol express," are chillies, shrimp paste, pork, onion, garlic, and pineapple cooked in coconut cream.

Balean also has bottled "santol" cooked in coconut cream, for P40 and honey for P100.

She said most of her buyers are her relatives, friends and balikbayans.

Having no advertisements, she relies on word of mouth in promoting her products.

Having capitalized at least P200,000 for her wine and food business, Balean said she looks forward to her first export in the next five years, adding she was determined to improve her products and improve her packaging.

Balean was a teacher for 30 years in the Bicol University and the technical services division chief for DOST-Bicol.

In her house, Balean keeps wine varieties she has made but they are not intended yet for commercial purposes.

She said she has seven other fruit wines in her shelf that may be marketed in the future but she is now just happy to serve them free to her family and visiting friends.

# Ateneo bags young financial wizards' tilt

By Doris C. Dumlao

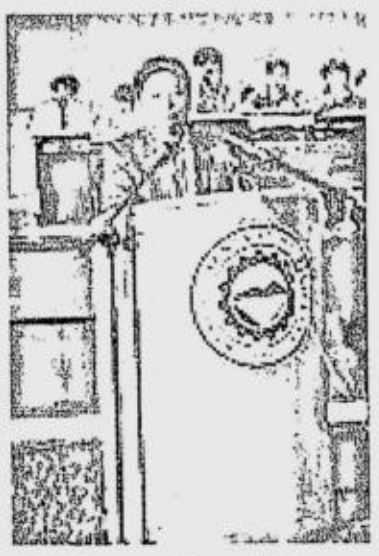
WINNING TEAM: Ateneo de Manila Unversity

THEY DIDN'T EVEN GET TO play in the much-coveted UAAP championship round, but in the country's premier competition of financial wizards, the Blue Eagles soared high this year.

Five senior students from Ateneo de Manila University, all set to graduate either magna or summa cum laude at the end of this school year, teamed up to dethrone five-time champion University of the Philippines Diliman and win the top prize in the recent 9th Inter-Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC).

They beat rivals from 70 colleges and universities which joined the ICFC, the Philippines' most prestigious annual academic competition on finance organized by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex).

The Ateneo team—composed of Andrea Isabel Go, 21; Jaime Antonio Rico Cuenco, 20; Jeremy Go, 19; Alfonso Luis Maputol, 20; and Clark Jefferson Cue, 21— garnered the highest points at the finance quiz-bee championship held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.



BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. delivered the keynote speech

The final leg of the competition consisted of four rounds totaling 50 questions based on the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) level 1 body of knowledge with topics ranging from corporate finance to economics.

Imagine being quizzed on questions like this: Richard Rider expects the stock market to trade within a narrow range for the next three months. What options strategy should he execute following his market view? a. covered call b. protective put c. long call + long put d. short call + short put e. short call + long put. (In case you're wondering, the answer is d.)

## Hardest question

That wasn't even the hardest question of all. The kids erred most on questions involving derivatives, those sophisticated hedging instruments whose values are based on the values of underlying assets or indices.

UP Diliman had to settle for the runner-up prize. A foreign institution, Singapore Management University, also joined the tilt for the first time. Its team won the third prize.

Ateneo received, among others, P1.25 million worth of scholarship (divided among team members), P100,000 in cash, HP calculators, a free trip to Boracay on top of their medals and huge wooden trophy.

The first runner-up received P60,000 in cash prize and the second runner-up, P40,000.

## Impressed

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., who delivered the keynote speech, said he was personally impressed that many of the finalists knew the answers to the difficult and complex questions and was equally amazed at the speed that they analyzed, computed and solved the problems given to them.

"I see in these finalists, therefore, future leaders of the country's economy," Tetangco said.

The Ateneo team, which fielded an all-seniors team for the first time, started training for the competition since November last year. They were chosen from a pool of students who had to undergo a course in advance accounting.

None of them has ever tried investing in the stock market, but all of them are planning to pursue a career in business and finance. Some said entrepreneurship could even be an option in the future.

Asked how it felt to dislodge UP Diliman to win this year's ICFC tilt, Isabel Go said: "It was very fulfilling especially last year it was a close race (between UP and Ateneo) and we lost only in the last question, so (lost by) one point. This year is our time so it's much sweeter."

## A little bit better

Ateneo team coach Darwin Yu said: "UP Dilman has traditionally been the top and so we've always been aspiring to be just a little bit better than them."

The team knew its weakness and compensated by working harder.

"Accounting is our weakness. None of them are accounting or finance majors. In our curriculum, we normally have about 15 units of accounting and finance and we knew we were competing with schools with three to four times more accounting and finance units so each of them had to learn it. It's like taking an additional 6 to 9 units on their own time," Yu said.

It was the first time that Ateneo fielded an all-seniors team, most of them studying management, management engineering or mathematical finance.

## Bright future

Asked how they will spend their share of the cash prize, some of them kidded that they would invest. To date, none of them has ever tried buying stocks or bonds.

But all of them said they would pursue a career in business and finance. Some said they could even be entrepreneurs someday.

Mark Yu, event chair, predicted a bright future for these young financial wizards.

"Given that the stock market is really booming, the demand for qualified investment professionals is really there," he said.

With these kids' technical background, Yu said they could even be smarter than older investment professionals except for their lack of experience.

ICFC aims to expose universities and colleges to world-class finance education standards, serve as a bellwether to ascertain the quality and level of finance education nationwide and develop the nation's emerging financial elite.

The 9th ICFC was held in partnership with the Citigroup Foundation and Asian Institute of Management.

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How to raise young scientists /C2

IN THIS ISSUE

Travel to Bohol and stay in a boutique hotel /C5

# The new warriors

## 'Take courage. Dragon taming is an art'

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

IN MY SENIOR YEARS I TRULY enjoy the company of young people.

They are smarter, bigger, handsomer specimens than ever before and less fearful of breaking boundaries set by past generations. Would there be those among them who could slay the dragons that besiege us within and without?

The shadow self, the feared, unclaimed self, is our dragon within and that of other people. Since June of 2007, spiritual warriors, age 22 to 40, have been manifesting one by one in my life. Surely they are descended from the native babaylan of precolonial Philippines who were suppressed by the Spanish friars and driven underground.

There are notable similarities and differences between the old and new babaylan. Both are healers gifted with clairvoyance. They have an attachment to the motherland and nature, and use herbs to heal. They are of great service to the community. Like the Mother God they believe in, the new warriors have spacious hearts and a great capacity to empathize with the pain of others.

Possessed by a spirit, the olden day babaylan went into a trance (*tumitirik ang mata*) while dancing. Today's spiritual warrior can be both in trance and aware of what's going on in the physical world.

There was a tradition among the Bisayans of old, of separating ("binokot") a chosen child from its parents for special training to become a babaylan. The elders do the choosing way before the child's consciousness has fully developed. Babaylan batch 2007 are fully grown up before deciding, on their own, to accept the calling or not.

A common experience of all mystics is that they undergo some kind of initiation—a serious illness, an abandonment, abuse of some kind, deep depression or grappling with doubt (as in the case of Mother Teresa). As the Buddhists would say, "Despair clears the way." John of the Cross has called it "the dark night of the soul," which is letting go of attachments—such as the 40 days and nights in desert, mountain or deserted beach.

### Young and focused

The young warriors are very focused (almost messianic) about their calling and can work tirelessly and endlessly at healing. Where did people so young derive such focus? Some claim they are the so-called "indigo children," born in 1992 or within the last third of the century. They are the promised reincarnation of the old avatars, enlightened souls sent down to help our suffering planet.

Some of them are, in varying degrees, dyslexic or attention deficit but richly endowed in other ways. Indigo children are born to parents who can't cope with them because they have miserable lives.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

In an earlier generation, commented Bong de la Torre, individuals who could not articulate what they wanted were considered crazy. "*Yon ang kinakadena, binabasbasan ng pare, nilalagay sa* basement *ng* Makati Med."

Some examples encountered: a woman who does the rain dance; a schoolteacher who talks to the souls of aborted children who ask to be given a Christian name so that they can move on; a PR practitioner who communes with the souls of Katipuneros like Hermano Pule who want their ideas conveyed to the younger generation; a dancer who believes we have invisible wings on our back which open up when we dance. The wings are fragile and can break and we have to learn how to put them back on again.

### Sacred places

For such souls Inner Dance is locating "sacred places," to which they can retreat—tree houses, beaches, hot springs, mountain retreats, spaces with waterfalls—safe places where they can be natural without being "normal."

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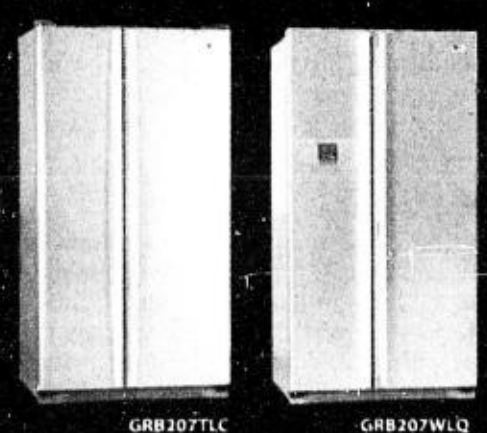


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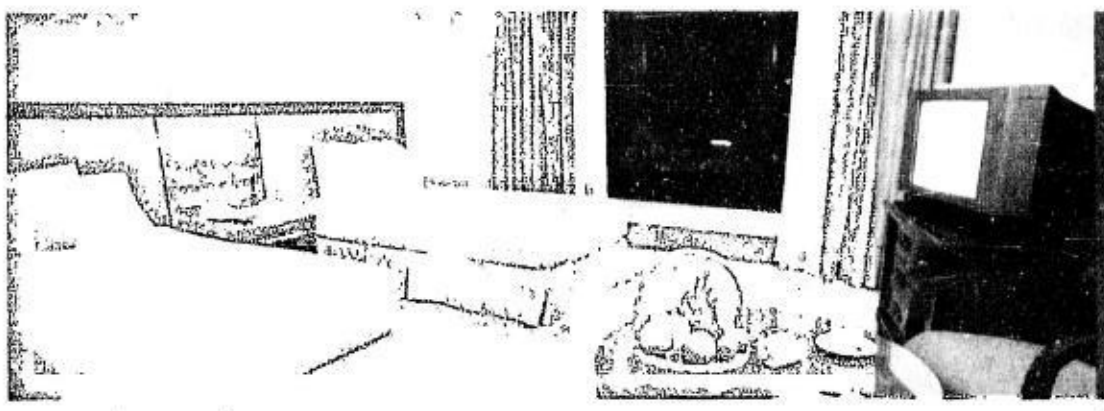

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# Hands-on physics

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHEN I WAS 10, I CAME ACROSS THE relativity theory, which took my breath away. I started reading popular physics books, even if I found the concepts complex. I looked forward to formal physics. After all, it delves into the tiniest things (quarks) to the largest (the universe itself).

Our high-school instructor did her best, but since she was not a physics major, we relied mostly on the text and simple experiments. (A Department of Science and Technology survey found that less than one-third of physics teachers possessed the appropriate science background.) My fascination waned, and I crossed physics off my list of potential college majors.

PHYSICISTS and educators Chris and Marivic Bernido believe in hands-on science learning.

## Apprentice teachers

"Many teachers also migrate to other countries," said physicists Christopher Bernido and his wife Marivic, both of the Central Visayan Institute (CVI) Foundation in Jagna, Bohol.

"To make things worse, some teachers from small rural private high schools like ours transfer to public ones [where] salaries [are higher]. Many General Science teachers shy away from teaching physics, too."

The Bernidos did not intend to teach in high school. In 1992, Chris retired from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and, together with Marivic, built the Research Center for Theoretical Physics in Jagna, where scientists, including Nobel winners, visit now and then.

But in 1999, Chris' mother, who ran the 70-year-old CVI, retired. "Almost all our students come from low-income families whose parents (farmers, fishermen, tricycle drivers, market vendors) want their children to be educated in a private school. It was difficult to say no to the desperate cry for help."

The Bernidos had ongoing physics projects in their research center. But, without qualified applicants for the CVI posts, Chris became school director and Marivic, principal.

"Some foreign physicists ask why Third World scientists do theoretical, basic research while most of the country suffers from extreme poverty. Of course, [such research] is important, but the question rocked our world view. It became urgent for us to contribute in some tangible way to national development."

The Bernidos pioneered the Dynamic Learning Program (DLP), where teachers undergo on-the-job training throughout the school year. Student scores increased dramatically and, more importantly, also their understanding and appreciation of physics.

How is this accomplished with very few qualified teachers? "Once, a new General Science graduate was brave enough to be assistant expert teacher in Physics, while Marivic was expert teacher. The expert plans and composes daily learning activities and tests. The assistant may be asked to plan her own activities under guidance, check quizzes based on an answer key, observe during discussions.

"Both teachers discuss how students take the activities, difficulties in problem-solving, performance in exams. This setup went on for two school years. Now the assistant is the expert for physics," the Bernidos continue.

"Experienced surgeons transmit their knowledge and skills to residents in a similar way. We think this training method is superior to occasional workshops outside campus," they said.

## Learning by doing

"In science, students need to think with their own minds and work with their own hands," said the Bernidos. "We emphasize learning by doing, so lectures are given only 20-30 percent of the time, while the rest is left for student activities. We do independent-student learning precisely because many teachers lack proficiency. The students will be worse off if they listen to badly explained or utterly wrong concepts."

To make sure teachers avoid going back to the traditional teaching method (mostly lectures), the DLP uses parallel learning groups, where all physics classes are held simultaneously.

Since the teacher cannot be in two places at once, this prevents her from lecturing more than a fraction of the time.

"Learning by doing means having activities integrating cognitive with psychomotor learning, such as graphs, paper cutouts, drawing and mapping with different colors," explained the Bernidos.

"Projects are finished within two class meetings. Measurements, drills and problem-solving are done by each student independently (not in groups, and certainly not as homework done by relatives or tutors), manipulating apparatus in lab stations with at most three students per group."

The Bernidos emphasized the basics. "Some high schools give advanced topics, mercilessly but needlessly, to students. We have seen how teachers take pride in teaching calculus in their school, but the teachers themselves cannot do algebra correctly. Also, physics topics requiring trigonometry, like two-dimensional motion, are taught even when students have not yet taken up the math needed... No wonder students find physics formidable!"

"Many topics can be taught and mastered by students with simple algebra alone. We believe that physics should enhance math skills. Ohm's law in electrical circuits reinforces what students learn in linear functions; motion equations, quadratics; vectors, geometry."

## Learning as one nation

To address problems in science learning, the Bernidos are creating a series of instructional videos, where experts demonstrate teaching of essential physics topics. The project, "Learning as One Nation," includes a portfolio with student activities following the DLP.

In July, the Fund for Assistance for Private Education, Department of Education, Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, and Center for Educational Measurement agreed to help. Pilot implementation in interested schools starts next school year.

*E-mail cbernido@mozcom.com*

## Raising young scientists

"YOUNG CHILDREN ARE NATURAL SCIENTISTS," say physicists Christopher and Marivic Bernido. "They ask a lot of questions, some quite profound, and some remaining unanswered definitively up to now.

"Ideally, there should be someone they respect who can think through the idea with them, or even challenge them to find the answer themselves. They need to maintain a sense of wonder about our world."

To make children at ease with science, the Bernidos offer these tips:

- Do not talk of science careers as academically difficult or not financially rewarding. This creates psychological barriers to learning. By the time children reach adolescence, many start being influenced by the materialism or expedlency of adults around them. They also acquire an attitude of nonchalance toward mathematics and science in high school, and do barely enough just to pass. They do not develop stamina in problem-solving.
- Surround children with books and simple playing materials to challenge and excite them. Pictionary can help enhance skills in model-building. Biographies of great scientists can inspire young people.

Good educational shows on television like "Mega Structures" on National Geographic Channel can also motivate them to take science and math seriously because these are the subjects that can provide them with powerful tools to build, create and go beyond present frontiers.

- Calculate accurately and neatly. Symbols should be written clearly. For example, there is a difference between the multiplication symbol x and the variable x in algebra. The numbers 4 and 9 should be distinguishable. The raised dot used for multiplication, when written carelessly, can be mistaken for the decimal point."

"Some students copy problems and numbers wrongly," say the Bernidos. "Multi-digit numbers are written in inverted order, 23 is copied as 32. This [is like] young children setting the table with spoons on the left and forks on the right, or writing the letter b as d and p as q.

"Many students might have done well in exams if they were less careless, losing points unnecessarily in trivial problems due to sloppy analysis.

- Start young. "Attitudes formed in high school become critical in professional life. The way people carry out duties and responsibilities in society is greatly influenced by their high-school education. College enhances attitudes and preferences (good or bad) acquired earlier, and gives training in a profession.

"But insofar as moral fiber and critical intellectual development are concerned, the high school is normally the stage when these are formed."

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

# The new warriors

**Shamanship has no distinctions of social class, educational attainment, looks, gender or seniority**

From page C1

Joseph Campbell writes that we are creating new myths and new legends. It is time to recognize the new heroes and villains. Paraphrasing Best Actor Epi Quizon, who is a "party animal," today's heroes can no longer have the trappings of old which would simply bore young people to death.

Today's heroes can no longer be caparisoned in outmoded trappings to which young people cannot relate. DJs are the new drumbeaters, in much the same way that the drummers of old attracted a crowd around the fire. And the master of ceremonies is the new shaman. (Tim Yap??)

How to create "new ceremonials" with real meaning. Since dancing and healing can give one a "high," says Pi Villaraza, who introduced the Inner Dance movement, "Wouldn't it be a great way to rehabilitate so many young people dependent on chemical energy? Enlightenment would be such a fun experience."

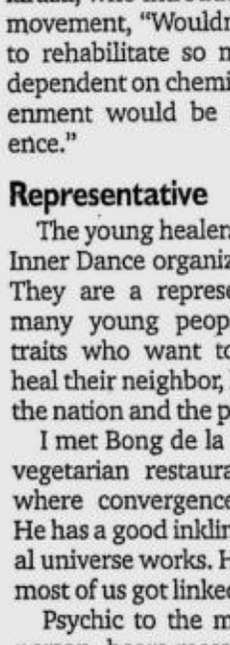
## Representative

The young healers I met are limited to Inner Dance organized in April of 2007. They are a representative slice of so many young people with babaylanic traits who want to "heal themselves, heal their neighbor, heal the community, the nation and the planet."

I met Bong de la Torre in Greens, the vegetarian restaurant near Max Q.C. where convergences keep happening. He has a good inkling of how the spiritual universe works. He is a connector and most of us got linked thru Bong.

Psychic to the max, Bong, a theater person, hears messages whispered into his ears by spirits of different realms. This makes him talk furiously and endlessly. But asked a question by a true seeker, valuable answers will easily flow through him.

I met Pi (Pai) Villaraza in an Inner Dance healing session in Bong's apartment. Surprisingly, there were more males present than females. Pi was obviously a leader. Everyone was dancing and healing one another by putting their thumb on the crown of another's head with the rest of the fingers spread upward. The energy this emitted quieted the mind. The receiver became one with the body and that was how the healing began. While still sitting, people began to dance with their hands, then eventually, on their feet with their whole body. Some went into catharsis or wild dancing. Others just quietly moved together. Everyone felt peaceful and happy, healed in their souls and the luckier ones in their bodies as well.



Thirty one-year-old Pi is a gifted medical intuitive and the turning point in his life was when he lived for months in a deserted beach, surviving on coconuts and bananas he gathered himself. Based in Mindanao, he was a transient in Manila.

Pi never wanted "disciples" nor a closed circuit group. He encouraged everyone to join and so each session is unique. The group energy is so powerful it moved someone to comment, "ET *sila, di ba*?" (Definitely!)

Another time I met up with John Pinlac, 22, a UP student who'd rather be called Ishilta. A scholarly fellow, he prefers spiritual lectures and gatherings to gigs and gimmicks. He belongs to the WICCA (an occult) society, to the Sufist group in Isis, to Peacemakers, and to RCW's Inner Child, and of course, Inner Dance.

"In any esoteric practice," Ishilta observes, "you need to move your body somehow but you still have to meditate afterwards. Inner Dance is all-in-one. You meditate while you're moving.

"Inner Dance is about being your authentic self. You move free form—no one dictates what you should do—you can cry, you can laugh, you can shout. Exercise is on the physical level. Inner Dance is on all levels."

## Music room

The music room in Troy Bernardo's house is Inner Dance's favorite gathering place. Troy is a handsome, lanky Spanish mestizo with a peaceful demeanor, the only one, according to Bong, who has completed the deadly 365 days of esoteric Christian meditation based on the book "A Course in Miracles."

Troy was initially attracted to the meditation path to remedy a skin condition. He was a habitué of dark places like cocktail lounges and discos. When Troy realized that to heal was his real calling he went on a rampage of healing—his family, his relatives, even his dog.

Since it is a cleansing ritual, some strange (and also beautiful) things happen during Inner Dance. In one of them (ex-Manila), a lawyer, stressed all the time, with aches all over his body, felt a surge of energy envelop him. It filled the man with forgiveness which is a different kind of divine love, feminine and, like a mother's love, unconditional. He felt like he was being cradled and rocked.

The body of another pained male was unexplainably tossed all around the floor. Before Christmas, though, he went on a 36-day meditation and emerged healed of a recurring illness. Thereafter, he moved to a fishing village and began his own NGO healing ministry.

## Matching energies

Each person in Inner Dance has his own particular way of healing and one always gravitates to the person whose energy best matches one's own. I am invariably attracted to the strongest energy in the group. I therefore found myself paired with Joe Mar Ovejas who has this big round head and close-cropped hair.

Joe Mar and I easily partnered. An arnis teacher, he had a strong flowing energy and his give-and-take of it was flawless. I could feel the bulging knotted muscles of his arms and calves. His palms and soles were as tough as leather. He said he worked in a computer company but only as a messenger. They say he is also a good masseur.

Joe Mar could see spirits but was afraid of ghosts. Sometimes he would be talking to one for a long time before realizing it was a ghost and would get really frightened. Joe Mar seemed well on the way to mastership and when I expressed such, Pi agreed.

It was becoming very clear that shamanship had no distinctions of social class, educational attainment, looks, gender or seniority. Everyone learns from everybody. I could see, too, the markings of the true babaylan. The best ones have little or no ego and are terribly psychic.

I discovered that the males connected to their warrior selves. Most of them took up martial arts, especially arnis, in order to explore its connection to Filipino spirituality. The composition of Inner Dance is mostly creative people—painters, singers, filmmakers, actors, dancers. They have no fear of their bodies and will readily dance—"the spirit loves a performance."

Seated on Troy's sofa were two Phil-Americans who connected to Susan Quimpo's New York group who were on an exposure trip in the Philippines. One was Justin Haruta, a gentle American-Filipino-Japanese who does beautiful healing. A Fullbright-Hayes scholar, Justin is a composer and a rapper. The other had magnificent tattoos from forearms to wrists, and his name was Nathaniel. He somehow learned how to dance like an Ifugao.

Hubert Posadas writes story lines for comics, gives workshops and does work with "security forces." He frightens most of the group because of the guttural animal sounds he utters during the sessions.

"He eats demons," says Bong de la Torre. Opens his mouth, spews them out and then catches and chews them. It's savage, but Hubert is very lucid and knows what he's doing. His is a Lemurian consciousness that can enter the animal self. Hubert likes to connect to his lower chakras which he is currently in the process of cleansing. "Actually," continues Bong, "it takes great courage to know your shadow self and to be able to say, like Hubert, I'll even embrace Satan to see what I can learn from him! After all, I am an autonomous being and make my own decisions."

I met Orlan de Guzman when he was still the office manager of Chacra (Center for Health and Creative Arts), a trailblazing spiritual health initiative in the '90s. Hardworking and angelic, he was in everything that Chacra was into and more. Orlan has probably the vastest experience among the members of Inner Dance, and as such is able to compare the different styles of accessing the spirit.

## Magic mommy

What about the girls? Lisette G. Salazar took to Inner Dance like a duck to water. She had her epiphany in Mt. Apo. Lisette, 28, is in a down-to-earth garments business and owns a restaurant, both of which she found easier to manage after Inner Dance. She has seriously incorporated dance in playing with and healing her two kids who call her "Magic Mommy."

Chato Dominese is Inner Dance's valued manager. A lay member of Pamayanan of the Good Shepherd Convent, and formerly of Gabriela, she loves NGO work. Chato first experienced the energy of Inner Dance when she introduced it to the nuns in Tagaytay. Chato has taken on the serious responsibility and the vision for spreading the word.

Becky Misa, former singer of The Ambivalent Crowd and occasional actress, is also instrumental in spreading dance as therapy.

Janelle Young, 22, is the youngest original member of Inner Dance. She is a young soul with a clean (uncomplicated) energy and is a very fast learner.

Joy Domingo is a filmmaker doing a college thesis on the babaylan. She has all the earmarks of a female warrior and dances it spectacularly (although before this she never danced in her life). Like the other girls, Joy always had a beer in her left hand and a cigarette in her right. But these were dropped when the girls got hooked to the healing force of Inner Dance.

## Free movement

Come to think of it, in the '90s, we used to do a similar dance in Chacra which Mariel Francisco began. It, too, was free movement which meant no fixed form, just follow your feelings. Our facilitator was a Javanese dancer named Prapto. The difference was that the early one was only introspective and didn't try to include "the other." Pi acknowledges that Chacra paved the way for Inner Dance.

"We were just a bunch of housewives seeking enlightenment," said Mariel. "We read on spiritual subjects, did research, tried so hard. Now all these things we know just flow so naturally out of the mouths of these young warriors. *Sapul na sapul nila*. (They fully comprehend it). And they're real enough, grounded enough to believe in while still retaining a sense of magic *na hindi na kailangang pang naka* lotus position. What used to happen in workshops, which was very 'male' in being so forcefully planned and directed, just flows through Inner Dance. It completes and makes sense of our Prapto activity."

Now is a time of convergence. Everyone in the world is into some kind of healing. All the initiatives are coming together—pranic healing, reiki, "praying over," meditation, channeling. Yoga, anthroposophical studies, chi gong, kalimasada, body movement. Crystal healing, angels, chanting and drumming. Astrology and Buddhism, ETs, Al Gore, Philippine millenarian movements, biodynamic farming and caring for Mother Earth.

Who'd ever believe 12 years ago that the last insights of Celestine Prophecy would have come to pass, that "holism" is now passé, that the hologram of the whole body can be seen in a drop of blood, in the iris, the tongue, the ear, or the foot? As if all the little candles we've been lighting here and there, almost unnoticed, are finally joining together to become one big light. And it doesn't matter if we're calling on Jesus or Buddha or Allah, it is illuminating the world

I value the young warriors who believe I can be their small bridge to the older generations. We are finally becoming one. It's a privilege to be alive.

# Santo Niño group marks 28th anniversary

ENTHRONED image of the Holy Infant Jesus

THE SANTO Niño Chapel in Quezon City

ON OCT. 28, THE CONGREGACION DEL Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will celebrate its 28th anniversary as well as the 22nd anniversary of the Chapel of the Most Holy Name of the Child Jesus at 200 E. Rodriguez Ave. Quezon City.

The Chapel was built by Oscar Violago and his wife. The couple was assigned to the Congregacion as chapel administrators and it was inaugurated by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin in 1984. The original image of the Congregacion's Sto. Niño, the patron of the chapel, is enthroned there as well as a replica of the Sto. Niño de Praga, a gift from the Czech Republic.

Congregacion members feel a close affinity with the chapel where they have spent days of recollection and players, said fashion designer Ben Farrales, founding chair of the group. They have conducted various activities in the chapel through the years—outreach programs, medical mission, catechetical classes and Christmas gift-giving—all for the benefit of informal dwellers in the community.

Throughout the year there are Sunday Masses, Novena Mass to the Sto. Niño on Monday at 6:30 p.m., Novena Mass to the Mother of Perpetual Help on Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., and First Friday Mass at 6:30 p.m. During Lent, the chapel's altar of repose attracts thousands during the traditional Visita Iglesia.

Aside from Farrales, Congregacion officers are Jing Chua (chair), Ricky Miranda (president), Chito Ilagan (vice president), Jesse Nell (secretary) and Mel Chionglo (treasurer). Board members include Nolie Hans, Steve de Leon, Germs Malabanan and Manolo Estrella.

Mentos and Chupa Chups will conduct free face painting activities at selected supermarkets during this year's Halloween season. These will be held at the following supermarkets starting 10 in the morning until 7 in the evening: Landmark Supermarket Makati and Trinoma, Robinsons Supermarket Galleria, Metro East and Ermita, and South Supermarket Filinvest on October 27. The activity will resume at Waltermart Supermarket Makati on October 28 and Metro Market!Market! Supermarket on October 28 and 29. It will be concluded at Shopwise Araneta, Alabang, and Libis; as well as Rustan's Supermarket Makati, and Powerplant on October 31

Perfetti Van Melle, delighting generations by producing quality confectionery products such as Mentos, Chupa Chups, Fruittella and Smint, is also offering their assortment of candies and lollipops inside Halloween-themed boxes, aptly called Halloween Treats. Each box comes with Halloween themed masks or hats and is available in major supermarkets nationwide.


# PRAMANA: THE COUNTRY'S FIRST RESIDENTIAL PARK

Who hasn't dreamt of living somewhere far from the maddening trappings of city life, in a place of boundless natural beauty where one can find total peace and serenity? Such a place is no longer a dream, as urbanites can look forward to enjoying life amidst nature in the rising new community that is Pramana.

A project of Greenfield Development Corporation, one of the country's top property development companies, Pramana promises to be that haven of beauty, comfort and security. Envisioned to be the country's first residential park community, Pramana strikes that perfect balance between suburban dreams and urban realities, between beauty and modernity.

Pramana plays an important role in Greenfield Development Corporation's grand plan to create a bustling and thriving CALABARZON region. Part of the ever-growing Greenfield City, Pramana was, like all projects within the area, masterfully planned to be a self-sufficient, environmentally sound community.

The choice location already lends itself to Pramana having a naturally inviting setting. Situated in the fast-booming town of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Pramana provides gorgeous views of Tagaytay and the nearby scenic areas.

The development itself stays true to Greenfield City's commitment to exist in harmony with natural surroundings. Pramana forms part of eighty hectares of prime land, more than half of which is dedicated to open spaces that were designed to enhance the area's natural beauty. Residents will enjoy taking in the sights with its lush landscapes and greenery, having pleasant walks in tree-lined roads, going through the Zen gardens and pocket parks, or resting in gazebos or by ponds.

The houses within Pramana reflect the beauty of the surroundings. The choice of employing Modern Asian architecture is obviously wise, as the style allows these elegant homes to bring the beauty of the outdoors in. Modern design sensibilities combine seamlessly with more traditional elements, all while still accommodating the resident's own view of a dream home.

Aside from enjoying grand views and homes, residents of Pramana can also enjoy a relaxing carefree lifestyle in the community thanks to a wealth of recreational options. The Pramana clubhouse holds function rooms, a swimming pool, playground and other exciting amenities that will provide residents countless hours of fun and enjoyment with family and friends.

To keep the peaceful and tranquil setting, Pramana has one of the most advanced and state-of-the-art security systems in the country. This gated, fully-landscaped community has twenty-four security and other modern infrastructure for safety and convenience, thus ensuring that Pramana is one's very own sanctuary.

And beyond Pramana's gates, the bustling south metro lifestyle awaits. The community is highly accessible, with Makati and Alabang just a short ride away and with Pramana directly connected to three major road networks: Mamplasan, Sta. Rosa and the ABI-Greenfield Interchange. Nearby lifestyle destinations like Paseo de Sta. Rosa - where there is a wide range of shopping, dining and entertainment options -- also ensure that urban necessities are easily met.

Pramana rises in full bloom and with these enticing elements can truly live up to its promise of being a true dream community.

To know more about Pramana and Greenfield Development Corporation, please call 631-8651 local 6602 or 6634; 420-8003 or (049) 541-2845. You may also email marketing@greenfield.com.ph or visit. www.greenfield.com.ph.

SMART Infinity lady boss Julie Carceller

TAGUIG Mayor Freddie and Kaye Tinga

"CELEBRITY Duets" friends Dennis Valdes, Dr. Marinduque, Jessica and David Bunevacz, and Suzette and Manny Lopez

"AWAKE." Josh Groban live in Manila

# And what a ball it was!

SHOW-BIZ beauties Ruffa Gutierrez and Gretchen Barretto

CELEBRITY couple James and Kris Yap

FUNNYMAN Michael V. and wife Carol Bunagan

SWATCH Queen Virgie Ramos, National Bookstore's Socorro Ramos and Martin Licauco

PHILIPPINE Tatler family. Lynne Palma, Chit Lijauco and Barrie Goodridge

DIRECTOR Rowell Santiago and Phoemela Baranda

TATLER Award winners Ramon Antonio, Joe Concepcion, Irene Francisco, Vicky Garchitorena, Georgina Wilson, Maurice Arcache, Celine Lopez, Alex and Marixi Prieto, Tony Meloto and Barrie Goodridge

TESSA!
*Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

SO MANY EVENTS, SO little time! October has been a most auspicious month for charity balls, anniversary parties and events of every sort.

Topping my list of classiest party of the past month is the annual Philippine Tatler Ball. Celebrating its sixth anniversary, this stylishly sophisticated lifestyle magazine has grown bigger and better with its newly improved cover and layout.

As the most awaited ball, annually held at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel Ballroom, the Tatler's guests plan weeks ahead to prepare for the event.

My own preparation started with my fave designer **Rajo Laurel**. In contrast to my gown last year, made from thousands of blue plastic bags, we decided to be more globally responsible and instead promote ecological awareness.

So this year, Rajo's spectacular creation consisted of foliage of various silk evergreens sewn onto a teal, taffeta bodice. The gown was festooned with crystals and a plethora of wild, feathered butterflies.

Unknown to me, the Tatler's garden-theme setup allowed me to totally blend with the decor. I felt like Poison Ivy among the bushes.

One of the ball's highlights for me is always the charity auction, with this year's proceeds going to Gawad Kalinga.

Tatler managing director **Irene Martel-Francisco** was so pleased with the generous bidders like **Patrick Reyno**, who won the Vertu Phone, and Mega-world's **Andrew Tan**, who won the IWC watch after heated bidding wars. Both items were generously donated by **Emerson** and **Ivan Yao** of Lucerne Jewelry.

When the auction proceeds are compiled with the generous pledges from the rest of the audience and Tatler's own commitment for several homes, the GK Friends of Philippine Tatler Village will have enough funds to build 40 homes, 10 units more than expected. Now that is a charity fundraiser!

There was an overwhelming sense of nationalism during the evening, ably hosted by Tatler editor **Anton San Diego** and stunning **Pops Fernandez**. The magazine honors several awardees for their individual talents and contributions to the nation. Usually the honorees are notified before the ball.

This year though, the Bon Vivant Awardee was kept secret until the pleasantly shocked recipient, **Maurice Arcache**, was announced. His impromptu speech was classic Arcachat and got the ballroom in stitches.

It was not all froth and frippery, of course. The moving speech of Most Charitable Force awardee, **Tony Meloto**, acknowledged the many donors to Gawad Kalinga, many of whom, he pointed out, were among the Tatler guests.

Awardees for the Most Eminent Couple, my parents **Alex** and **Marixi Prieto**, also spoke about the importance of giving back, especially by those that have been blessed.

After the formalities, it was time to let our collective hair down, courtesy of the band Spirit of '67. By coincidence, they launched into "Proud Mary," the same song I had just performed that same afternoon with **Arnel Ignacio** on GMA's "Celebrity Duets." Well, I'm never one to shirk such serendipity, so I quickly jumped onstage and sang with the band.

Of course, my unplanned performance was nothing like the "Dream Girl"'s virtuoso singing earlier in the evening. Who can possibly match the amazing trio of **Isay Alvarez**, **May Bayot** and **Bituin Escalante**? These three have singing DNA down to their cores and the entire Tatler crowd was wowed.

### Duet with Josh Groban

Talented songbird May Bayot, of course, is the sister of famed Las Vegas-based **Lani Misalucha**. In the recently held awesome Josh Groban concert at the PICC, Lani flew in to sing "The Prayer" in what must be the celebrity duet of duets.

Josh and Lani's incredible, pitch-perfect rendition got me inspired to further my singing career, but I think after "Celebrity Duets," my husband **Dennis** will insist that I come back to earth and refocus on family.

The "Celebrity Duets" season has been a long, three months and I can now tell how difficult it truly is for contestants to last on these reality TV shows.

Groban's concerts were produced by Smart and MTV Philippines. The first night was purely for Smart subscribers and I had the good fortune to get tickets from them. It was, as they say, simply amazing to watch such a talented artist sing, play the piano and even take a turn at the drums.

### Beyoncé

MTV Philippines has recently been bringing a range of international artists onto the local concert scene. Next up is a concert I am all too excited to see—the world tour named "The Beyoncé Experience Live in Taguig 2007" that will hit Manila on Nov. 7.

The multi-awarded singer, songwriter and actress has attained legendary music status, starting from her popular girl group, Destiny's Child.

I'm sure the Bonifacio Global City Open Field will be bustling that night—with an explosive combination of sexy sounds and booty-shaking moves. The undisputed R&B princess will be performing with her all-girl band, powerful back-up singers and incredible dancers.

### Globe discounts

In the continuing battle of the telco heavyweights, Globe is not to be outdone. As the major presenter, together with MTV Philippines, Globe has laid out a slew of discount schemes for its current subscribers. Platinum members may enjoy as much as 25-percent off ticket prices if paid through G Cash.

There are also several exciting promos to win tickets, courtesy of co-presenters like Accenture (visit www.accenture.com/live), Metrobank Credit Cards, Samsung.

Visit www.mtv-phil.com for chances to win tickets. Call TicketWorld at 8919999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph.

At the presscon at the Martinis Bar at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, MTV head **Francis Lumen** was happy about the enthusiastic response to Beyoncé. There may be so many events and so little time, but this is one event we will surely find the time for!

*E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.*

THE "BEYONCÉ Experience Live in Taguig" concert's major presenters and sponsors at the presscon in Martinis Bar

MANDARIN Oriental gang of four. Javi Berenguer-Testa, Oliver Kreuzer, Charisse Chuidian and Knuth Kiefer

MTV Philippines president Francis Lumen, Globe president Gerry Ablaza and Mandarin Oriental GM Helmut Gaisberger

EX-PAT Magazine writer Gel Litton and 24/7 couple Teddy and Janine Dario

# Taking the extra distance for service

By Fran Katigbak

Hands On Manila carries out the second installment of 'Servathon,' a full day of community service by private firms

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY. We're glad that you have come to share your life with us..."

Angelic voices drifted through the halls of Asilo de San Vicente de Paul as little children from the orphanage sang the inspirational song during the Servathon media launch sponsored by Hands On Manila Foundation Inc.

Servathon, coined from the words "service" and "marathon," is the second installment of a full day of community service for HOM's partner organizations by volunteers from private corporations. A fundraising event will also be held for the foundation's year-round volunteer programs and projects.

Simply put, the event is about encouraging professionals to step out of the office and volunteer to help others.

While the idea may sound stressful and, well, meant for just "them do-gooders," those who were at the Servathon launch thought otherwise.

HANDS On Manila's Gina Roxas helps color the "gift." REM ZAMORA

Members of the media, along with HOM volunteers, willingly rolled up their sleeves and got dirty creating a gift—two coloring book-inspired murals—for the children of Asilo. The orphanage, which celebrates its 122nd anniversary this year, is one of the oldest in the country.

Mural-painting that sunny morning turned out to be surprisingly fun and therapeutic.

Volunteers to the Oct. 27 Servathon can expect a similar experience with the following service projects: education (mural-painting and school-building or repairing); housing (build-up with Habitat for Humanity); environment (Pasig River clean-up, community park clean-up, revitalization of Parks and Wildlife Bureau Wildlife Rescue Center); livelihood (gardening, implementing food security programs for the urban poor); health (revitalization of playroom, garden, meditation areas in public hospitals).

### Coming together

The very first service marathon, which took place last year, brought together 10 corporations whose 350 volunteers put in 1,750 service hours. Their projects helped 18,000 beneficiaries.

As of last month, the companies that have already signed up for Hands On Servathon 2007 include Accenture Philippines, American Express, Ateneo Law School Batch '85, Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation, Central Azucarera de Don Pedro, Chevron Philippines, Cibo, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines Inc, EON The Stakeholder Relations Firm, Globe Telecom, HSBC, JTI, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Rockwell Land Corp., Shell Philippines Exploration, Thomson Financial Philippines.

The foundation hopes to enlist more companies that would engage in service projects simultaneously all over Metro Manila.

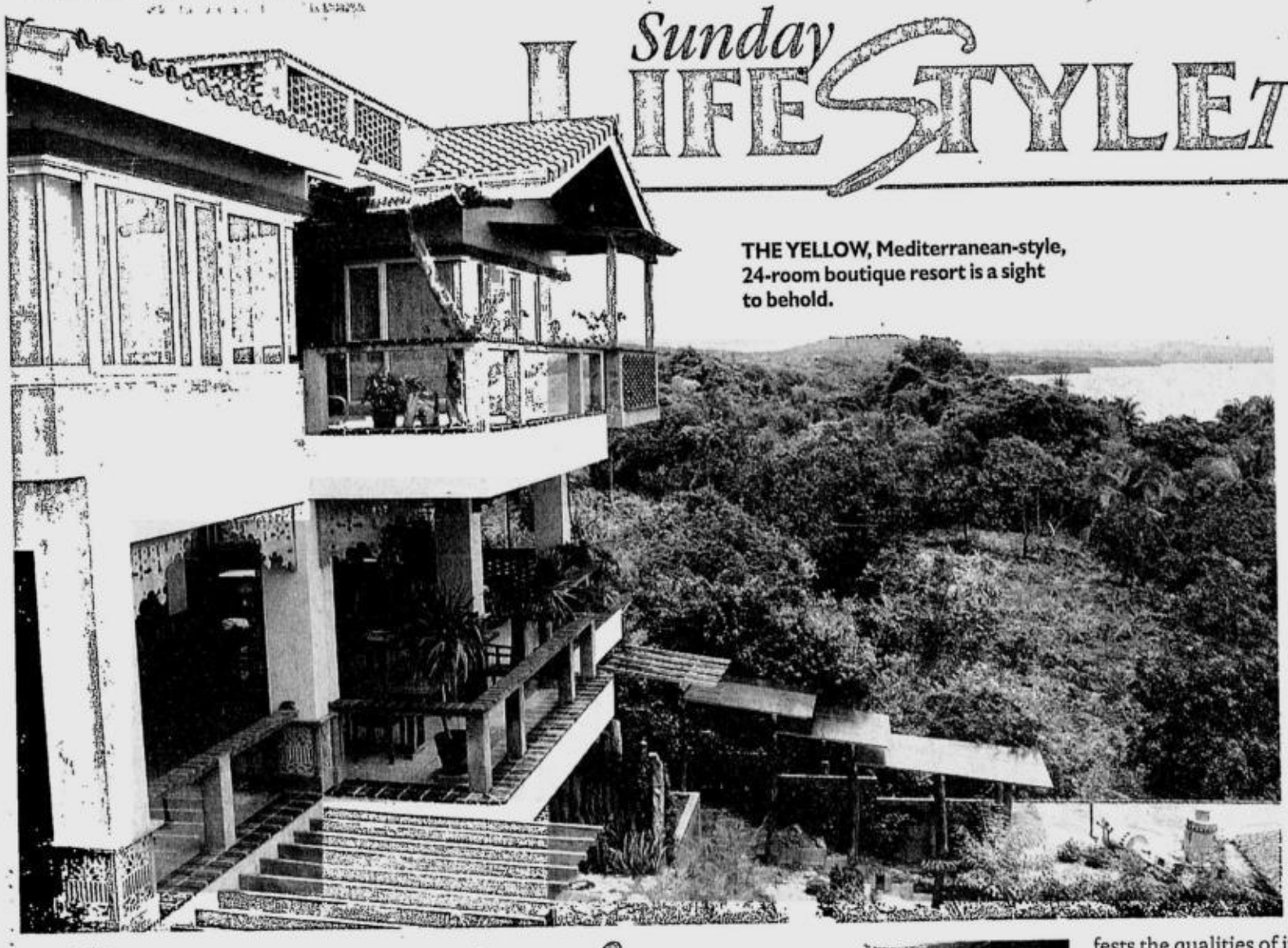
Established in 2001, HOM is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, private organization affiliated with Hands On Network-USA.

Who knows? Hands On Servathon 2007 might not just be a volunteer opportunity for companies and employees. It could also be a chance to stretch muscles outside the office cubicle, feel the warmth of sunshine, and experience how it is to be, as the rest of the Asilo orphans' song goes, "a family always there to be strong and to lean on."

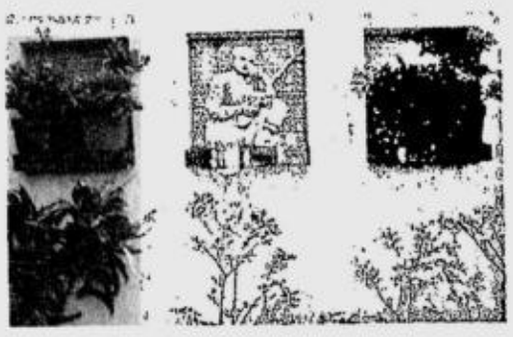
ASILO children welcome guests with a song. FRAN KATIGBAK

*Call 8437044/ 8435231, e-mail servathon@handsonmanila.org or visit www.servathon.handsonmanila.org.*

*E-mail the author at fkatigbak@inquirer.com.ph*



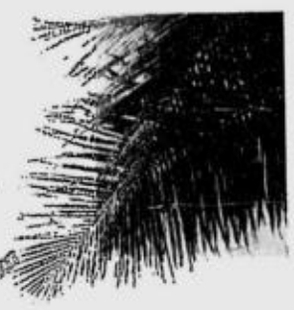
THE YELLOW, Mediterranean-style, 24-room boutique resort is a sight to behold.



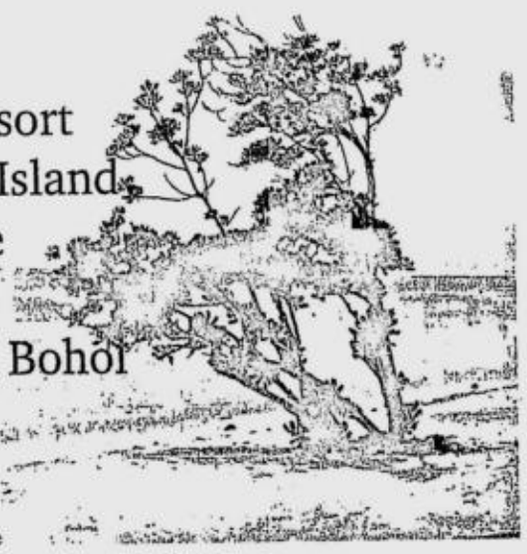
RICH IN HERITAGE. Second floor library and sitting area

THE RESORT has so many intricate details, each one with a story to tell.

# Beautiful getaway by the sea



## Amarela Resort on Panglao Island is one of the many gems of beautiful Bohol



**Text and photos by Cathy S. Babao Guballa**

AT MID-LIFE YOU OFTEN FIND yourself traveling to find answers to the many questions that lie within.

Often, the best things about this journey are unexpected finds—from within yourself, as a 40-something embarking on the second half of life; and the treasures you find along the way.

Bohol, the province that had been described as "God's little paradise," caught me off-guard when I spent a couple of days there recently.

Wrapped in its mystery and charm, I discovered many gems throughout the province. Foremost among them is a hidden enclave by the sea—the Amarela Resort on Panglao Island.

The yellow, Mediterranean-style, 24-room boutique resort is a sight to behold. From the moment you step in, you become wrapped in serenity, enfolded in Amarela's warmth and charm.

### Esteemed guest

The staff is very friendly and accommodating. You feel like an esteemed guest at someone's elegant seaside residence. Right away, you feel very relaxed and at home.

Bohol's culture and history fill the halls and rooms of this resort. The view from the dining area is simply breathtaking. Guests are awed by vistas of the Visayan sea. On a clear day, one can see the neighboring fabled Pamilacan Island and even all the way to Camiguin.

The resort has so many intricate details, each one with a story to tell, making Amarela all the more charming and special.

The master of the house, so to speak, is Doy Nunag who, in his "former" life was a corporate lawyer with one of the largest and most esteemed international law firms. Nunag hails from Antiquera and is very proud of his province's culture and history.

Throughout our stay he regaled us with stories about the many pieces that adorn the walls and halls of Amarela. Nunag is both gentle and genteel and Amarela manifests the qualities of its owner.

### Centuries-old portal

The paintings on the walls are by people close to the Nunag family. The massive doors that welcome you, as well as the intricate wooden lattices that surround the resort, came from a centuries-old house.

Practically all of the wooden furniture—chairs, tables, beds—are either antiques or fashioned by Nunag's townmates in Antiquera, a town known for its excellent weavers and furniture makers.

Personally, the best part of being in Amarela was the serenity it provided and respite from what could sometimes be a frazzled and harried life. The whole area is filled with peace and tranquility that your mind and spirit are really forced to take a break from the concerns of the world.

Very conducive to writing and reading, Amarela fulfilled all my requirements for a perfect getaway—the sun, the sea, lots of green, tranquil surroundings and the creature comforts of modern life.

The resort has a library filled with the Nunag family's personal collection of books and DVDs. Considering that the family has two lawyers, one sportsman, one creative soul and a health practitioner, you can imagine the array of books and the impressive DVD collection available.

Amarela's 26 guest rooms are superbly furnished, well-equipped, and comfortable. After a day of taking in Bohol's wonderful sights, you will look forward to coming home to Amarela.

On my first day there, all I did was sleep, eat and take in the beautiful sea view. One morning, I was up at the crack of dawn to catch the glorious sunrise from the balcony and watch the gentle morning light bathe the resort in splendor.

The beach with its white sands is captivating and soothing this time of year. I enjoyed just soaking in the sun, savoring the gentle breeze and listening to the waves caress the shore.

Amarela also has a good-sized pool where you can swim to your heart's content or simply lie under the sun and lose yourself in a good book.

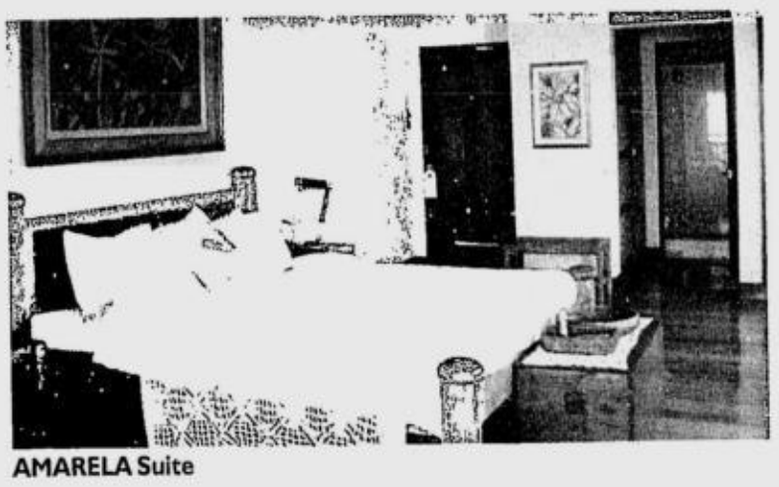
I went to Bohol on a whim, having heard a great deal about the beauty of the province and yet not expecting anything. I chose to keep myself open to all possibilities and just allowed myself to be surprised and awed by its gifts.

The time at Amarela, just letting myself be "in the flow" so to speak, brought many joys and discoveries. As I prepared to leave the island that captivated my heart, I was reminded of what Anne Morrow Lindbergh wrote: "The sea does not reward those who are too anxious, too greedy, or too impatient. One should lie empty, open, choiceless as a beach—waiting for a gift from the sea."

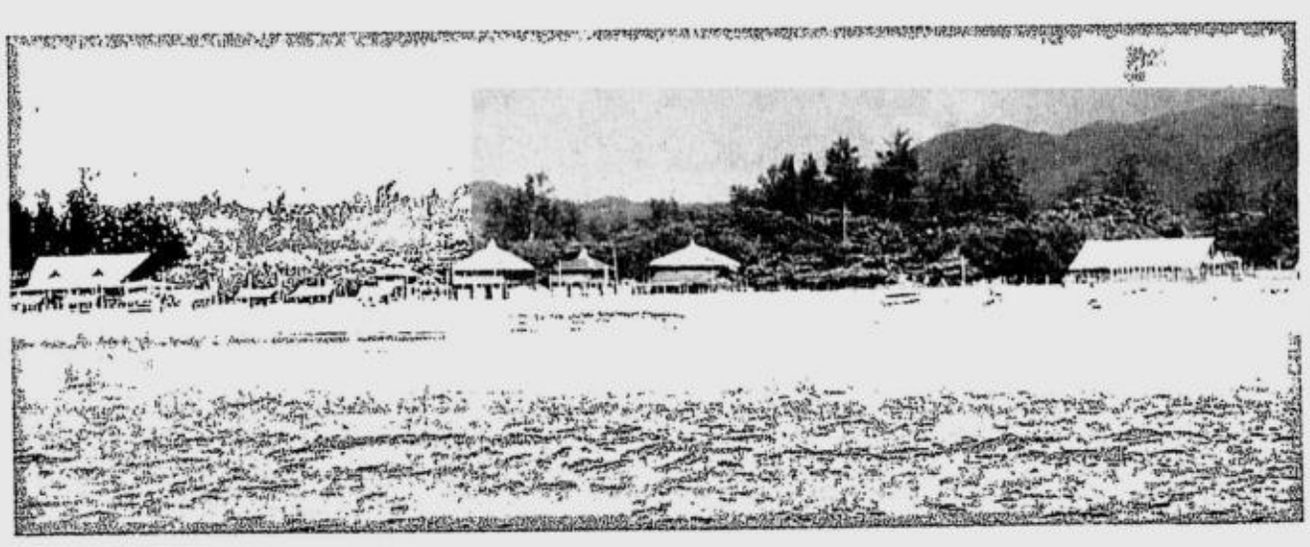
I would go back in a heartbeat and I look forward to returning to Amarela.

For more information on Amarela, visit www.amarelaresort.com.

*E-mail the author at cathybabao @gmail.com*



AMARELA Suite



# From Subic to 'Subik'

THE GREATER SUBIC BAY Tourism Bureau (GSBTB), in partnership with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), will hold the Subik! Subik! '07 Festival slated on Nov. 2-4.

Conceptualized to formally launch the refashioned name, "Subik," which collectively refers to all provinces under the Greater Subic Bay, the festival gathers various festivals and events regularly held in Subik to better drum up local and foreign travelers' interests on the region's tourist destinations.

The festival has the participation of the local governments of Olongapo, Bataan and Zambales.

The festival will open with a 2.5-km and 5-km Fun Run competition, followed by the MOA signing among officials of SBMA, Olongapo City, Bataan and Zambales, to be witnessed by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, North Philippines Visitors Bureau (NPVB) and GSBTB, at the Freeport Boardwalk.

Later, there will be the formal opening of the three-day Subik! Trade Fair, which will showcase Bataan-Olongapo-Subic-Zambales (BOSZ) products.

Foodies, chocoholics, and wine aficionados will then be welcomed at the Great Subik-Chocolates, Wines, & Liquor ATBP Sale!, a special three-day sale of premium chocolate and spirits; and the Great Subik Food Specials, a three-day affair featuring the Great Subik Buffet Lunch-Dinner special by hotels and restaurants.

Next is the Best of Subik Parade, a lively march from Magsaysay Boulevard to the Boardwalk. It will feature a synchronized exhibition of the Philippine Merchant Marines, a historical reenactment of the Battle of Bataan, the Ita-Itahan (Aytas) parade, and a march of beauty queens.

To cap the day are a 30-minute fireworks display and a band concert.

Day 2 will start off with an Open Water Swim event (1-mile and 100-meter) at White Rock Beach.

The Tracma Martial Arts Exhibition at the Boardwalk will give karate fans a rare chance to meet Trovador Ramos, the country's martial arts icon who is the only man to beat Bruce Lee.

Divers, on the other hand, can have free training on Wreck and Reef Check Training Program at the Scuba Shack.

For other vacationers, free guided tours of BOSZ are available at the parking lot of Subic Diamond Casino.

There will also be a harness racing followed by a dance contest and the Battle of the Bands at the Boardwalk.

For Day 3, the main events are the banca races and water sports contests with free rides at Driftwood Beach in Bo. Barretto, Olongapo City. Call (047) 252-5212 or log on to www.greatersubik.com.

## Travel Briefs

### Negros trade fair ends today

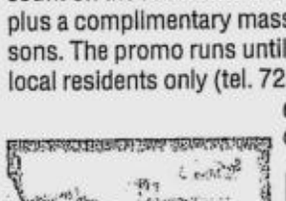
Aton Ini!, the Masskara Trade Fair at the Northwing lobby of SM City Bacolod ends today. Organized by the Multi-sectoral Alliance for Development (MUAD)—Negros and Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) Inc. was formally opened by MUAD-Negros' president Dr. Billy Tusalem and executive director Reynic Alo; Ric Torres, associate director of PEF; and guest speaker Roberto Montelibano, president of Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Theme of the trade fair is "Lokal nga Negosyo Itibong, Kauswagan Ipadayon." A highlight of the fair is the display of organic products of MUAD-Negros' farmer-beneficiaries and partners.

### Best beaches are in Palawan

Palawan has the best beaches in Asia, so says Conde Nast Traveler. In its Great Asian Beach Finder piece, the magazine cited the province's underwater rivers, coral formations, sugary beaches, coves and islets, that got the province voted as the tourist destination with the Best Beaches Overall in Asia. Conde Nast Traveler is a pioneering and respected tourism publication catering to high-end luxury tourists and adventure seekers. Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the achievement validated the efforts of the department, local government and private sector in preserving and promoting the country's nature attractions.

### Sweet city retreat

Ascott Makati offers the Ascott Sweet City Retreat promo. For special discounted rates, guests may enjoy special privileges including complimentary massage, Dining Room discounts, complimentary use of recreational facilities. Weekend guests staying in a two bedroom serviced residence for three nights (Friday to Sunday) will enjoy 50-percent discount on the room rate on the third day night plus a complimentary massage for two persons. The promo runs until Oct. 31 and is for local residents only (tel. 7298888, e-mail enquiry.makati @the-ascott.com).

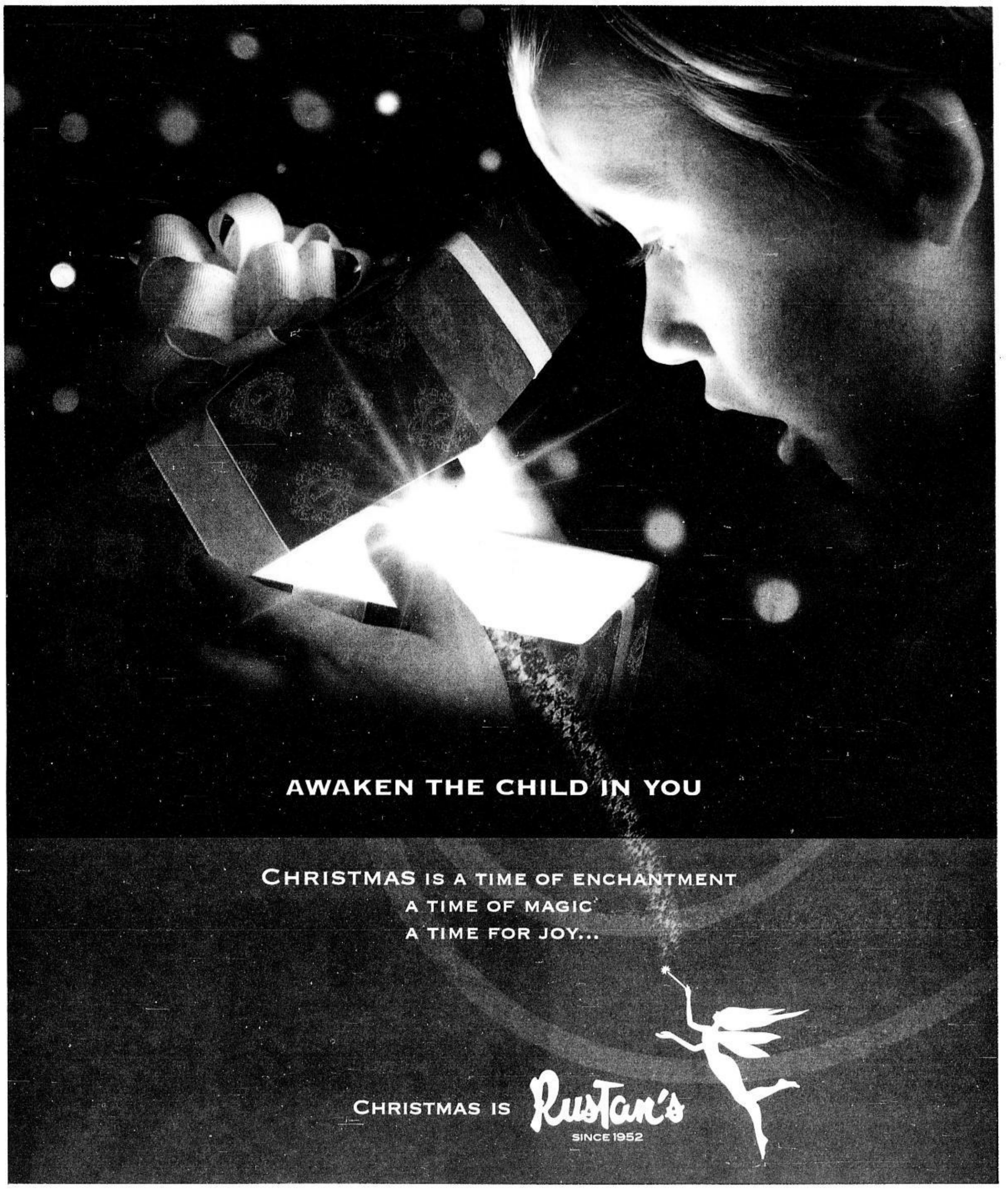


### New eTicket partners

Continental Airlines has announced that it is implementing an interline eTicket program with DragonAir, its 100th eTicket partner. It added it was nearing its target to have all interline agreements eTicketable by the end of the year. Mark Erwin, senior vice president for corporate development, said only over a dozen carriers remained to be brought on line. Interline eTickets permit customers to fly and check baggage on Continental and other carriers on a single paperless eTicket itinerary.

### Travel made easy

Cebu Pacific has paved the way towards affordable and more convenient air travel for Filipinos, with its numerous initiatives for providing travelers with "low fare, great value." CEB allowed travelers to book flights online or make flight changes via its call center, 70-20-888, among others. Recently, it also tied up with Megalink allowing bank clients to pay for plane tickets through Megalink ATM branches nationwide. Over the counter payments are also accepted. Promotional seat sales are also held often. CEB will fly to Xiamen this week; and Guangzhou and Macau next month.

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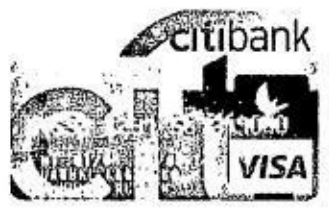


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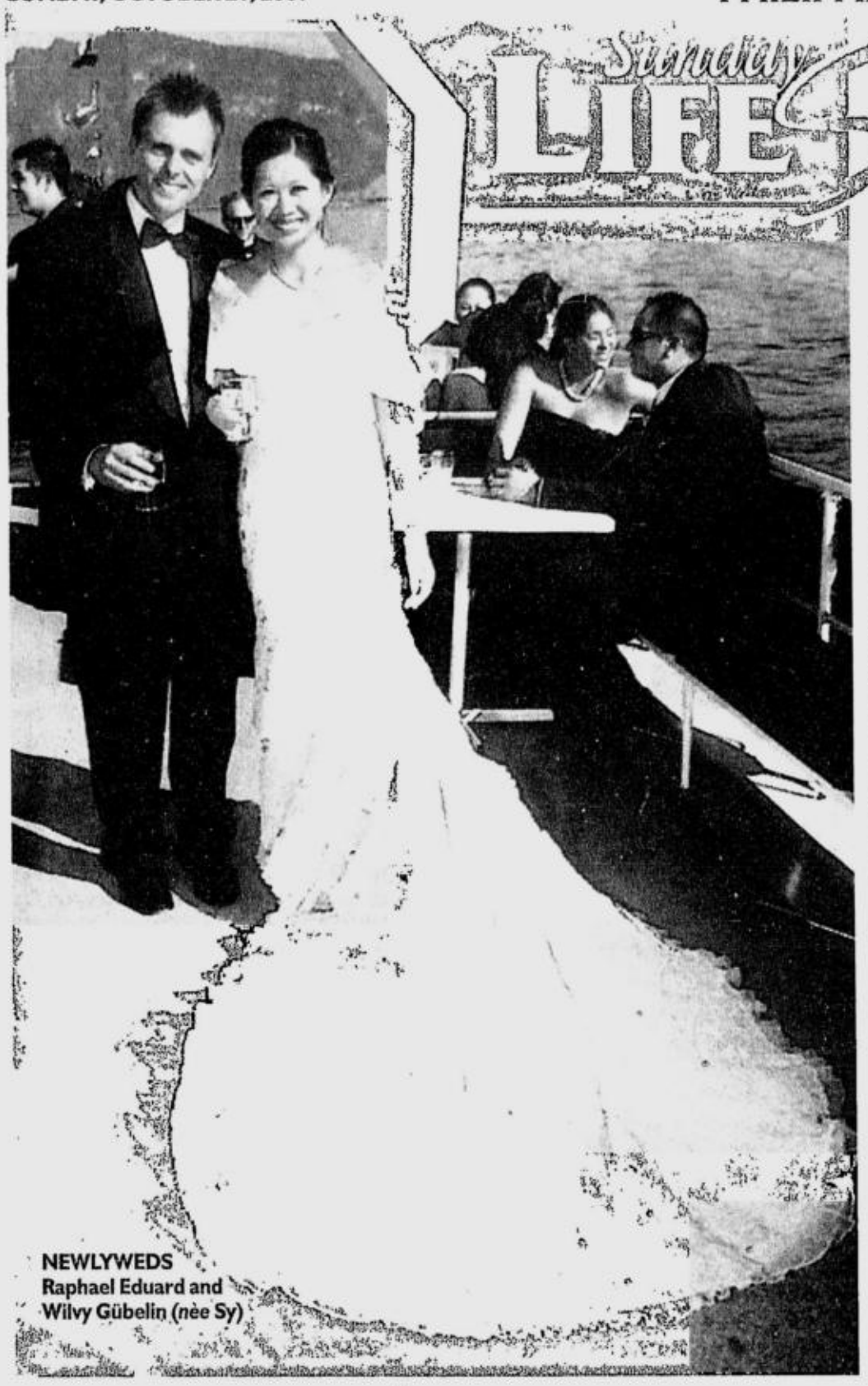

NEWLYWEDS
Raphael Eduard and
Wilvy Gübelin (*nèe* Sy)

GÜBELIN-SY NUPTIALS

# Twice they say their 'I dos'

RAPHAEL EDUARD GÜBELIN and Wilvy Fernandez Sy recently exchanged vows at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

The groom is the son of Thomas and Susy Gübelin of Lucerne, Switzerland; while the bride is the daughter of José Wilfredo and Adela Sy.

The Forbes Park ceremony was the second time the couple exchanged vows. They were first married at the Franziskaner Church in Lucerne in July.

During the first ceremony, guests took a boat to the dinner reception in Hotel Vitznau. For the Manila wedding, the lunch reception was held at the Rigodon Ballroom of The Peninsula Manila. An evening celebration followed at the Gercon Plaza Penthouse.

The bride wore a beautiful wedding

TWICE/ D2

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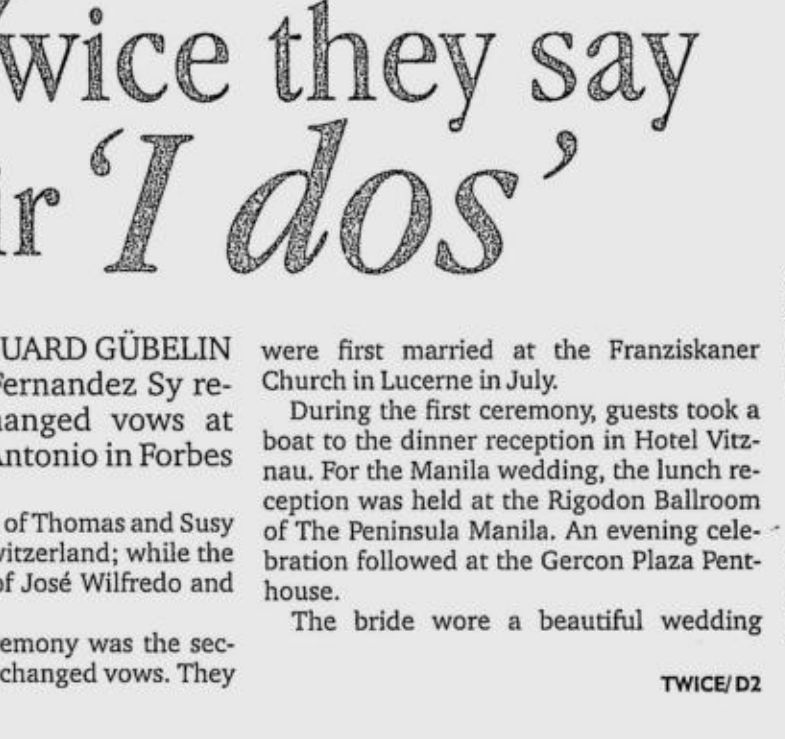

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ANTOINETTE Licup, Cindy Tiu, Sara Güebelin and Kimana, Myra Sy, the newlyweds, Don Sy, Lance Feliciano, Hubertus Thost and Mark Hulsbergen

# Twice they say their 'I do's'

THE COUPLE with Bishop Teodoro Bacani

From page D1

gown made by Pitoy Moreno, whom she met when she watched his fashion show last year in Washington, DC.

The strapless gown was made of fully embroidered *piña* with fine *calado* and a panel of *piña* layers from the knees that ended in a long cathedral train. The piña veil matched the design of the gown.

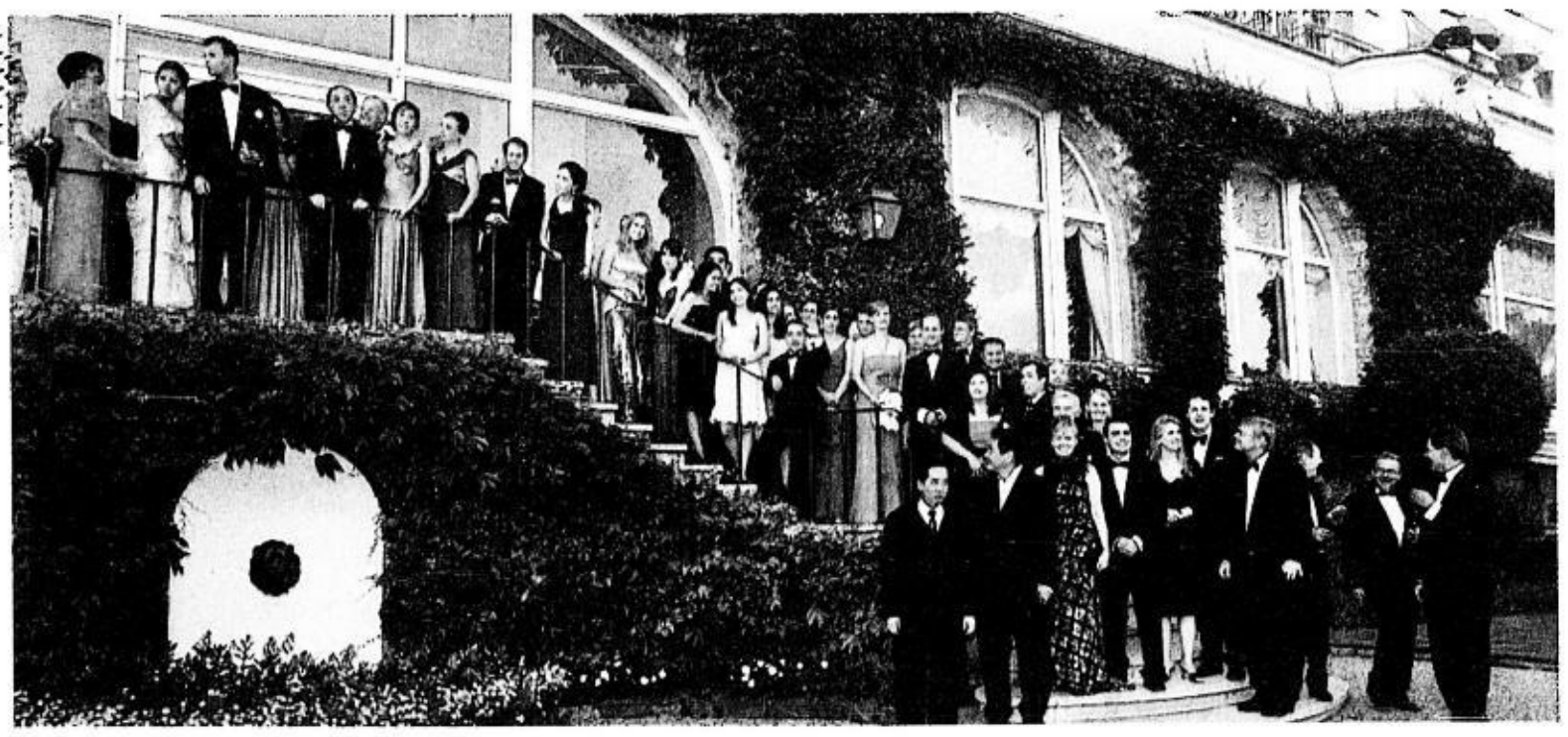
Principal sponsors were Gerry L. Contreras, Ben C. Tiu, Carlos Uy, Delfin Hallare Jr., Catherine C. Tiu, Heidi Underberg, Cristina Tan Licup and Arsenia F. Vallier.

Mark Hulsbergen was best man and Myra Sy was maid of honor. Groomsmen were Hubertus Thost, Wilfredo Sy Jr. and Lance Feliciano, while bridesmaids were Antoinette Licup, Bernadette C. Tiu and Sara Güebelin Mittelmann.

Junior bridesmaids were Cameron Angeles, Kirstiana Bandong, Chelsea Angeles and Kirsten Angeles, while the flower girl was Kim Mittelmann.

LANCE Feliciano, Pitoy Moreno, Gerry Contreras, the bride's mother Adela Sy and Johnny Valdes

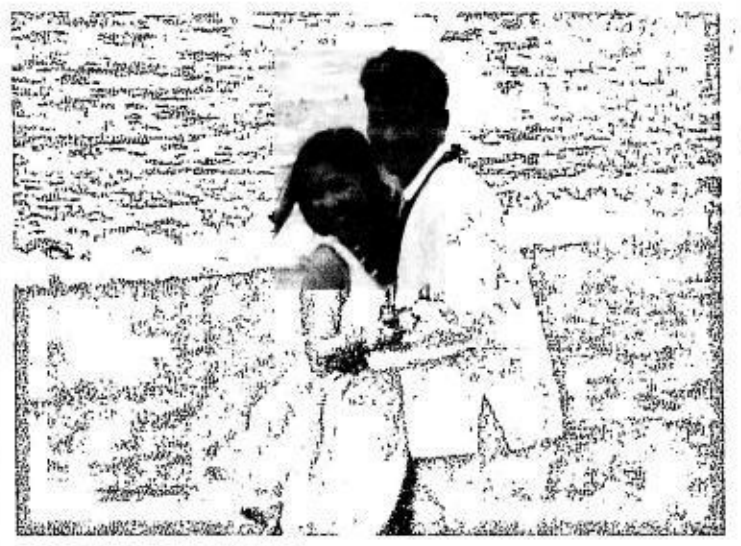
THE GROOM'S parents Susy and Thomas Güebelin



THE NEWLYWEDS and with their guests at Hotel Vitznau in Lucerne at the dinner reception

## Milestones

*We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



BOQUIREN-LIWAG

**Biela Cruz Boquiren**, daughter of **Joey** and **Dolores Madrigalejos**, recently married **Robert A. Liwag**, son of **Lolita** (deceased) and **Pricillano Liwag**, in a beach ceremony on the shores near the Saint Luis College Development Center in Bauang, La Union. Pastor **Reynald Sulayao** officiated the wedding.

SAN DIEGO-QUIZON

**Andrew San Diego**, son of **Rufino** and **Felisa San Diego**, will wed **Bernadette Quizon**, daughter of **Manny** and **Fe Quizon**, on Oct. 27, at the Chapel of Transfiguration, Calaruega, Batangas. **Eric Pineda** designed the bridal gown in ivory silk gazar. The bodice is asymmetrically pleated and mixed with chantilly lace A double-width veil of illusion tulle held by Swarovski-crystal pins and a bouquet of handmade cabbage roses complete the ensemble. Reception follows at the Splendido Taal Golf Clubhouse.

CANTOS-LIBRADA

**Erickson Cantos**, son of **Marcelino** and **Julieta Cantos**, will wed **Ma. Julieta Librada**, daughter of **Willie** and **Marlene Librada**, on Oct. 27, at the Catedral de San Sebastian Church, Lipa City, Batangas. Reception will follow at Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Barangay Dagatan, Batangas.

VILLANUEVA-DOMINGO

**Lloyd Nuza Villanueva**, son of **Lino** and **Lorna Villanueva**, and **Maria Aileen Ofrasio Domingo**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Rizalina Domingo**, will wed on Oct. 26, 4 p.m., at St. John Bosco Parish Church. Reception will follow at Makati Park and Garden-Artist Pavillion.

# She wants out of her marriage

## Emily's Post
*Emily Marcelo*

DEAR EMILY,

My husband and I have been married for 20 years and we have teenage children. He was my boyfriend in high school.

My problem is he has been having an affair for almost two years now with a girl 20 years younger! I caught him about three weeks ago and he cried like a baby and said he would stop.

But I caught him again this week. He denied it, of course, but eventually admitted it and said he could not understand himself. He knows it is wrong but he just cannot stop.

This is his first time to have an affair. He sees her at least two times a week when he can squeeze her into his schedule. He is with me the rest of the week.

But he talks to her a lot and sends her many text messages through his cell phone.

I have lost all hope and I now want out of this marriage. I have cancer and I know I do not have much time left and he knows this.

I do not want to spend my remaining life thinking or worrying if he is with her or not. I want to live happily without him and just spend whatever time I have left with my children.

We went through a lot even before we got married but, because we loved each other, we made it through.

That is why it just pains me to see it end this way after all we have been through!

JR

Your husband clearly did not play the field, as you and he got this close early in life when you both should have been dating and partying and having fun in high school.

He is recapturing his lost youth, and what better way to do that than hooking up with a girl young enough to be his daughter!

It is just too bad that he has chosen a very bad time to do it—a time when he should be giving you solace from the battering of this grave malady.

Seems like, despite his promise to reform, he has already moved on and adopted another life like you are not there anymore.

How else can you explain his cold-hearted, blatant affair with you around, sick and suffering?

Do not sulk! Do not get mad! Get even! Make sure all your papers are in order and that your husband will not be able to touch anything that is legally and rightfully yours.

Hit him where he will hurt most—his wallet. If everything is in order, enjoy life in whichever way and whatever form you can.

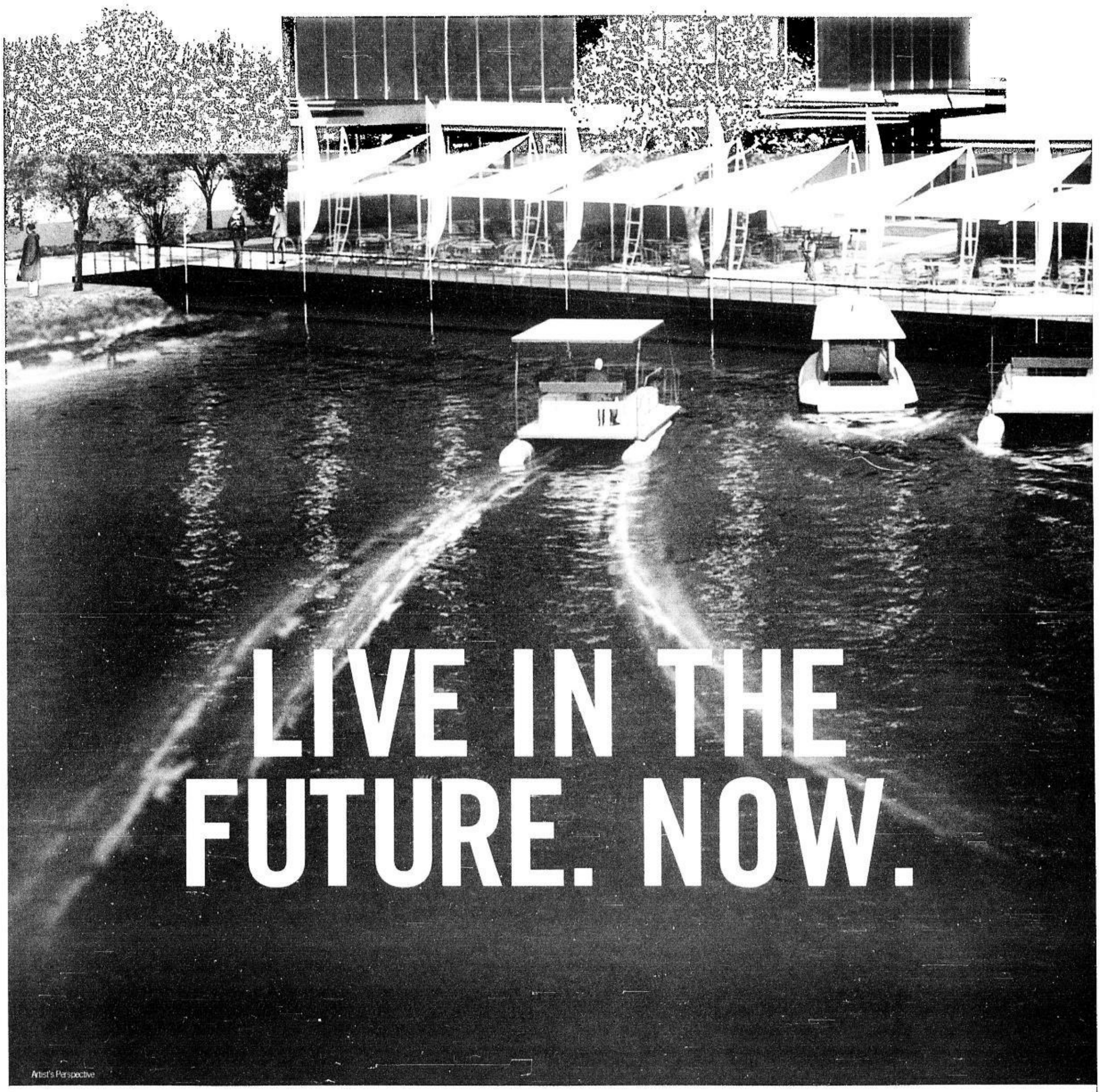
Consider your creep of a husband already out of your hair and cannot affect your mental state anymore no matter what he does.

Give yourself a break! Stop wallowing in misery both physically and emotionally when you need all your energy to conquer this vicious enemy inside your body.

You are like a candle that is burning on both ends. Are you in such a rush to die? If you are, well, amen to that. But if you still have some fire in you to live, then do it!

Remember that happiness is a state of mind.

*E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Visit www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*




Less than an hour south of Makati, a new metropolis is evolving. NUVALI is Ayala Land and the Yulo family's vision of a sustainable future. Covering a total land area of 1,600 hectares, NUVALI will be developed at unprecedented scale and speed. Its evolution begins with the coming of three new Ayala Land residential communities.

NUVALI
EVOLIVING

A Project of AyalaLand
www.nuvalievoliving.com

D4

# NUVALI

## ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

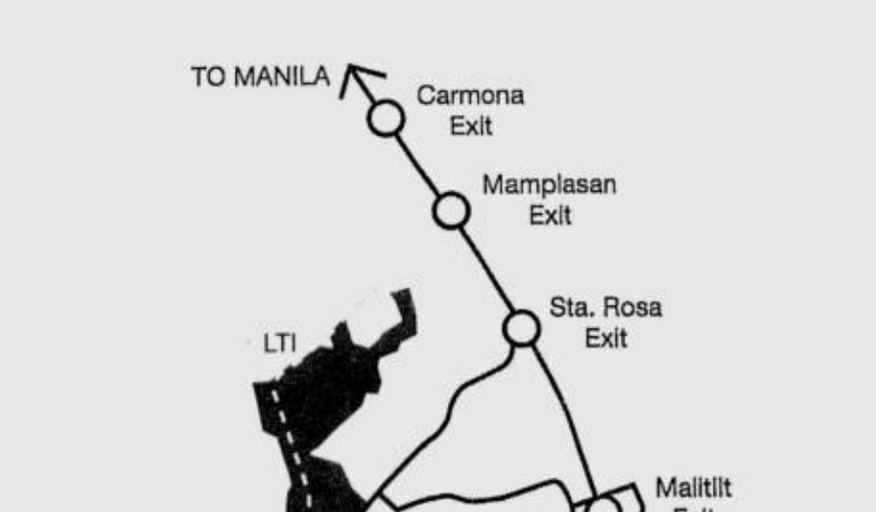
- [illegible]

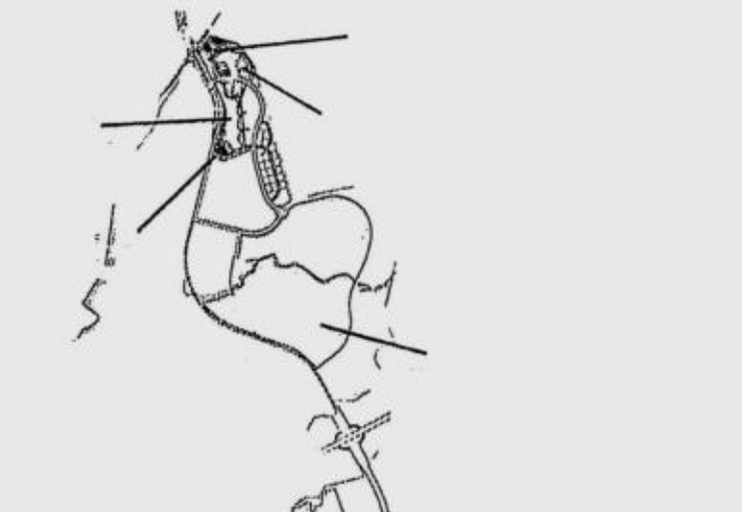
## SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Abundant public spaces: schools, museum, arts, etc.
- Workforce sourced by local communities [illegible] NUVALI

NUVALI is a 50-minute drive from Makati thru the Sta. Rosa Exit of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). By first half of 2008, a road will connect NUVALI directly to the Mamplasan Exit of the SLEX.

The first phase of NUVALI will have a retail center linked to the development's first business and technology campus. It will also have an iconic visitors' center, gathered around a four-hectare multi-functional lake. NUVALI's first phase also includes three residential communities: Abrio, Treveia, and Avida Settings.



D5

# THE ADDRESS FOR BALANCED LIVI

AyalaLand

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**ABRIO** delivers an extraordinary level of privacy, exclusivity, and security to Ayala Land's top-tier clients, who place great value in the ability to live in a discreet environment where freedom of movement can be enjoyed without having to live behind high walls. Abrio's roads are designed to conceal homes from street view, and its main road will have a right-of-way nearly as wide as the carriageway of Ayala Avenue. The property's size is limited to only 380 lots, and its building density will only be half that of comparable premium neighborhoods. Security and resource-management systems will employ the latest technology, such as infrared fencing and rainwater harvesting, to ensure an unrestricted yet environmentally responsible lifestyle.

Community Innovations
an AyalaLand company

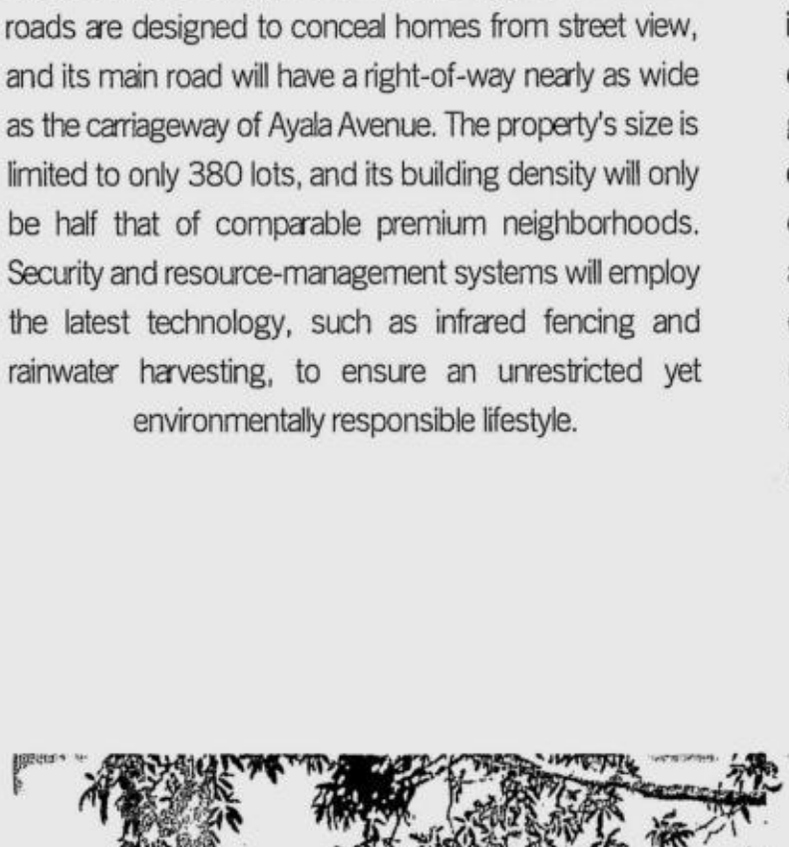
Nurturing family and community relationships in an upscale environment

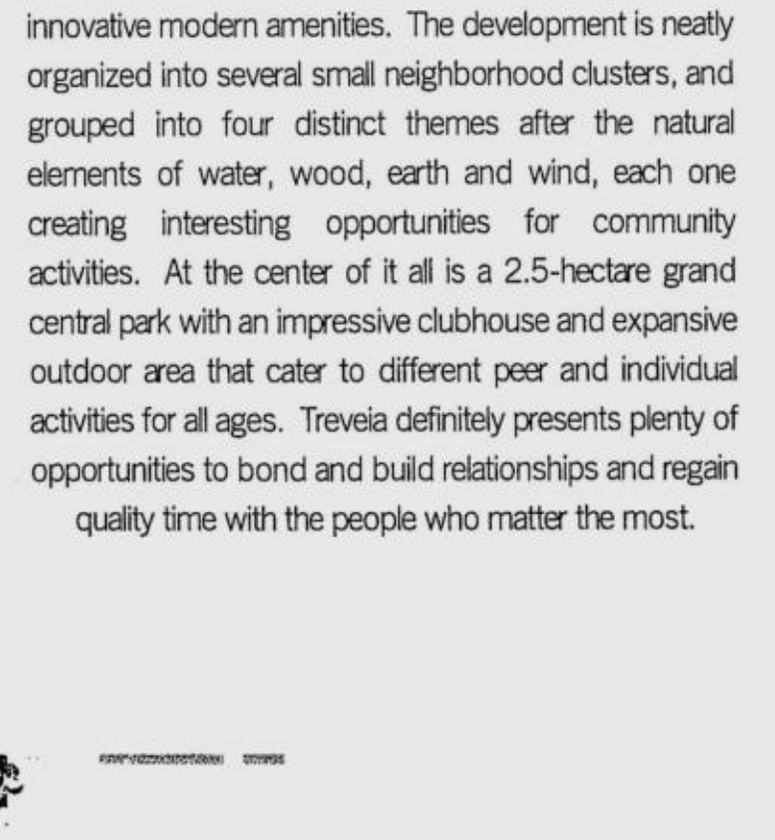
**TREVEIA** introduces a lifestyle that warmly nurtures close family and community ties in a healthy, upscale and eco-friendly environment. Almost half of its 60-hectare land area is dedicated to tree-shaded open spaces and parks, with an extensive array of beautifully-designed and innovative modern amenities. The development is neatly organized into several small neighborhood clusters, and grouped into four distinct themes after the natural elements of water, wood, earth and wind, each one creating interesting opportunities for community activities. At the center of it all is a 2.5-hectare grand central park with an impressive clubhouse and expansive outdoor area that cater to different peer and individual activities for all ages. Treveia definitely presents plenty of opportunities to bond and build relationships and regain quality time with the people who matter the most.

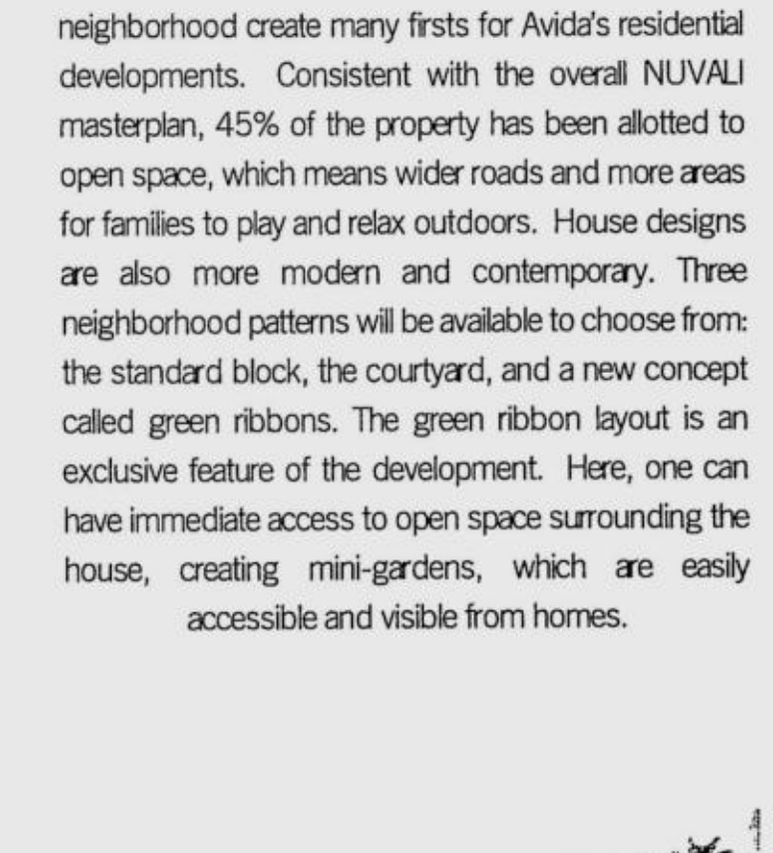
Avida
Affordable living at its best

Jnparalleled comfort and security at affordable rates

**AVIDA SETTINGS** is an affordable, environment-friendly community designed with Mother Nature at its center. It offers well-planned community amenities and facilities that allow more time for family bonding activities. The house and lot offerings of this neighborhood create many firsts for Avida's residential developments. Consistent with the overall NUVALI masterplan, 45% of the property has been allotted to open space, which means wider roads and more areas for families to play and relax outdoors. House designs are also more modern and contemporary. Three neighborhood patterns will be available to choose from: the standard block, the courtyard, and a new concept called green ribbons. The green ribbon layout is an exclusive feature of the development. Here, one can have immediate access to open space surrounding the house, creating mini-gardens, which are easily accessible and visible from homes.







DL

# "REMODELING THE FUTURE"

**FERNANDO ZOBEL DE AYALA**
Chairman of the Board

"Throughout our corporate history, Ayala Land has made a concerted effort to elevate the Filipino lifestyle. Large-scale and pioneering mixed-use developments such as the Makati Central Business District, Alabang, Bonifacio Global City, and Cebu Business Park are living testaments of our commitment to build thriving communities across the country that set new standards of living. This is our heritage; this is our unique strength.

The next chapter of Ayala Land's history unfolds in NUVALI. Leveraging our decades of experience in real estate development, and hand-in-hand with our partners from the Yulo family, we hope to similarly redefine the Filipino way of life, with a particular focus on environmental, economic, and social sustainability. We will move at an unprecedented speed and scale to build a community of the future at NUVALI, one that offers its residents, office workers, and visitors a new way of living.

Our commitment to innovate while building on our heritage prompts the rise of NUVALI. We invite you to discover how Ayala Land's vision can blend seamlessly with your own, accommodating the dynamics of community living, and the essentials of a sustainable way of life. This is EVOLIVING; this is NUVALI."

"For Ayala Land and the Yulo family, NUVALI is a milestone project that began with a dream of what the future can look like. Our colleague, Andy Locsin, who is very involved in this project, says that when you look at land, when you walk on land, the land tells you something. It tells you what it wants to be. And it is up to you to coax that potential out of it. Ayala Land has learned many things in its last eighty years of building. It is a great privilege to be in this moment, at the threshold of a new day when we are about to realize the fruits of all those years of learning, and create a new standard of living for our Philippine communities. Sustainability is all about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the future. With our residential neighborhoods now breaking ground in NUVALI, it is possible to show the world that sustainable living is a dream we can make real in this country."

President & Chief Executive Officer

NUVALI
EVOLIVING

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www.nuvalievoliving.com

The particulars, details, and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans, which have been prepared with utmost care and given in good faith, the public is invited to verify their factual and subsequent changes. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract.
HLURB License to Sell Nos. ABRIO Phase 1: 17189, AVIDA Settings Nuvali Phase 1: 18539, TREVEIA Phase 1: 18540

PURELY PERSONAL
*Josephine Darang*

# Coffee-table books on Ilocos Norte, La Naval

IT TOOK 14 YEARS, BUT KANnawidan Foundation, Inc. finally put out a coffee-table book on the people, culture and history of Ilocos Norte.

"Ili a Nasudi" ( Land of Grace and Gentility) is also a resource book considering the wealth of information it contains.

Kannawidan is a derivative of the Ilocos word *tawid* that means inheritance. The book is a collection of articles by 28 prominent Ilocanos about their history, family and traditions.

The articles include Fr. Ericson Josue's on the Christianization of the province; Ramon Farolan's "Seven Sisters of Sarrat" that includes his mother Filipinas Jamias; Justice Manuel Lazaro's "The Apo You Didn't Know" referring to President Ferdinand Marcos; and Roxanne Albornoz de la Cuesta's story about summer evenings in Dingras, her hometown.

I talk about Our Lady of Badoc that the Ilocanos refer to as "the cause of our joy" and how I found her in the St. John the Baptist Church in Badoc.

Archival historical research was done by Dulce Festin Baybay and Dr. Luis Camara Dery.

I feel blessed to have been born in Laoag. And I will surely attend the gathering of fellow Ilocanos at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 27, at the Manila Polo Club.

Dr. Ester Albano-Garcia, president and chief academic officer of the University of the East who is from Dingras, will be guest of honor and speaker. Governor Michael Marcos Keon will give an inspirational message.

Kudos to the writers who contributed to the book: lawyer Ceasar Agnir, Ruth Samonte Limjoco, Laura Lopez, Carla Pacis, Guia Albano Imperia, among others; and the editorial board members Ernesto L. Albano, Rene S. Yanos, Lita A. Luga, Cielito Valdes-Lejano, Lita M. Roque, Justice Wenceslao Agnir and Georgia B. Alviar, president of Kannawidan. Max Edralin Jr. is adviser.

Famous painter Charitso Bitanga did the cover using the famous Iloco cloth *abel*. Benito "Negz" Negranze is the book's graphics designer. Printer is Divine Providence Printing Press.

Call 0918-888105, 4892264; 0920-9059175 or 7222272.

## Book launch

Listening to Lito Zulueta describe the coffee-table book on our Lady of La Naval, I was awed by how varied and disparate La Naval can be.

Quoting Lito: "La Naval is the 1646 battles, the devotion to the Rosary, the evangelical missions that have been fueled across the centuries by the devotion to the Blessed Mother and the dedication to the Church, the pomp and pageantry of the religious processions, the rituals and practices that have evolved around the safekeeping of the image, the cultural patrimony that has been steadily built around the image, including her rich vestments and her ornate jewelry, her influence on socio-political affairs, and even her impact, however minute and subtle, on the lives of small and ordinary people who look up to her as mother and protector.

Lito said: "To many of us devotees, of course, La Naval is the end-all be-all of everything. So the temptation really for us is to indulge in La Naval. This means a no-holds-barred publication on the phenomenon of La Naval. The result is the book we're launching this afternoon. I think the original spirit of the work was captured in our initial meetings when I said that since this was to be a book to commemorate the canonical coronation of La Naval, then it should be the definitive book on the subject that should last for the next 100 years."

It took three and a half years to prepare, research and write the book which, to Lito, was a series of miracles. "The Saga of La Naval: Triumph of a People's Faith" is available at the religious store of Sto. Domingo Church.

## Fiesta

Fr. Brigido Casas, the 31-year-old parish priest of St. Charles Borromeo in Mahatao, Batanes, will lead the celebration on Nov. 4 of its 224th fiesta. Theme is "San Carlos Borromeo, Model of Transformation in the Family and Society".

Novena Masses at 6:30 p.m. will be held Oct. 26-Nov. 3. Fr. Bridge, former assistant parish priest of the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cebu, was asked by Bishop Camilo Gregorio to go to Batanes to say Masses for two weeks since there was a shortage of priests. Fr. Bridge has been there for four years.

## Pilgrimage

Healing priest Fr. Momoy Borromeo will lead pilgrims to places where Jesus performed miracles in the Holy Land, Jordan and Egypt, Nov. 17-30. In Jordan, they will see the river where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. In Egypt, they will swim in the Dead Sea known for its healing mineral water. Call Adam's Travel at 5211651/38 or e-mail adamstvl@yahoo.com.

## Natural cure

Dr. Teresa Bitanga Valero, doctor of nutrimedicine and natural healthcare practitioner, says what you eat makes you well or sick.

Her healthcare program focuses on cleansing and nourishing the body, mind and spirit. She believes in fighting disease the natural way by using natural medicines and a diet without forbidden foods and drinks. Dr. Valero helps priests and nuns who are sick, old and dying. Call 8217672, text 0922-8271383 or e-mail thankgod13@gmail.com.

## Pilgrimage

When Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the Servants of the Risen Christ, leads pilgrims through Jerusalem, he will feel emotionally and spiritually touched when he reaches the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, considered Christendom's most sacred place being the site of Jesus' burial and Resurrection.

Fr. Archie put up in January the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Monasterio de Tarlac in the mountains of San Jose. The relic of the Holy Cross, a piece of wood from the true Cross, was donated to the Servants of the Risen Christ by a diocese in Germany. Praying to the Holy Relic have healed some people.

Tour leader Sally Maddatu hopes Fr. Archie will be able to say Mass in a chapel under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. To join the trip on Nov. 14, text 0906-2395166 or 0922-9632762.

God Loves Catholic Charismatic Community will hold a Life in the Spirit seminar 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Oct. 27, at 84 10th St., New Manila, QC. Text 0917-5301213.

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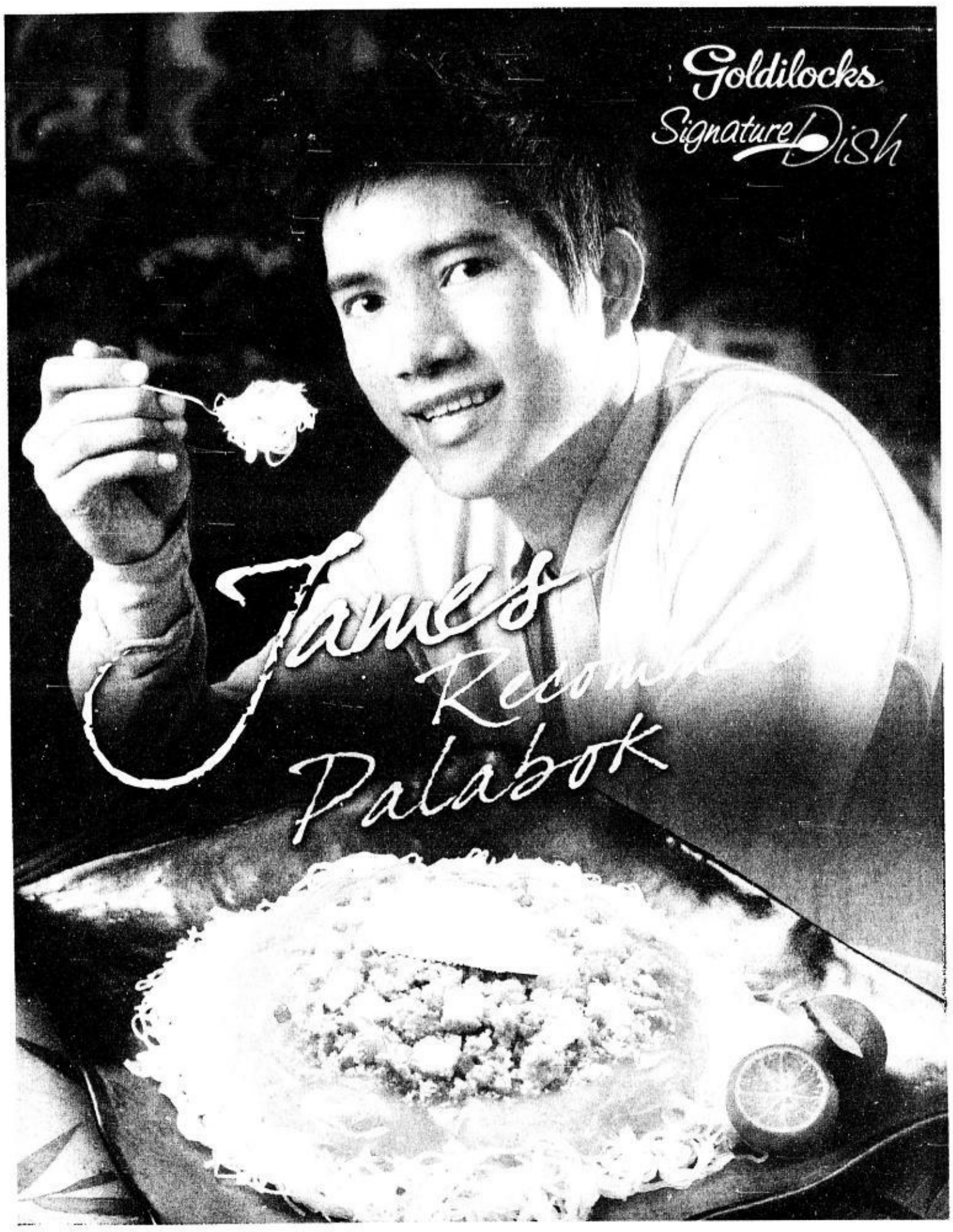



## James is a Foodshop Fan...

Just how much Goldilocks Pancit Palabok can a 6'3", 190-pound star athlete eat in one sitting? Given his well-chiseled physique, it's much more than one would imagine. "Favorite ko talaga ang Filipino food, and though it's Chinese in origin, Pancit Palabok is definitely a Pinoy staple," said James Yap in between forkfuls of delicious golden noodles. "If there's one Foodshop that has really captured true Filipino taste, it would definitely be Goldilocks," he raved. "Sobrang sarap ng Palabok dito, it's one of their signature dishes. I'm sure just like me, kinalakihan na din ito ng marami".

Of course, not everyone grew to be as tall (or as famous) as James while eating Goldilocks Pancit Palabok, but the recent proud father was certainly accurate in pointing out the inimitable relationship between Goldilocks Foodshop and the Filipino consumer. For generations of Pinoys, Goldilocks has always been there to provide the perfect "comfort food" for every imaginable situation. Whenever a gathering of family and friends requires good old-fashioned home-style cooking, Goldilocks Foodshop has been the traditional destination for Filipinos.

James surmises that his particular fondness for food has much to do with his Southern roots. "Kaming mga taga Western Visayas, masasarap talaga kumain," he explained. "In a country of hearty eaters, we surely rank among the top of the list."

With such a lively appetite and an impressive menu of Goldilocks meals to choose from, which among the dishes are the basketball idol's favorites? "Siyempre, kasama na diyan itong Pancit Palabok," James began. "Halos standard na kasi yung orders ko sa Goldilocks. I know exactly what I want even before I enter the Foodshop. In fact, Kris can guess exactly what my orders will be – either sobrang predictable ako or my wife really knows me that well," he said with amusement.

And speaking of his celebrity spouse, which menu items does Kris usually enjoy? "Kris is more of a dessert person. She really knows how to choose the best cakes, pastries, and breads, kaya ang sarap niyang kasama sa Goldilocks," James pointed out. "Malamang, the reason she is inclined towards desserts is because siya mismo, sweet and delightful," said the clearly smitten husband about his beautiful wife.

## ...While Kris Loves The Bakeshop

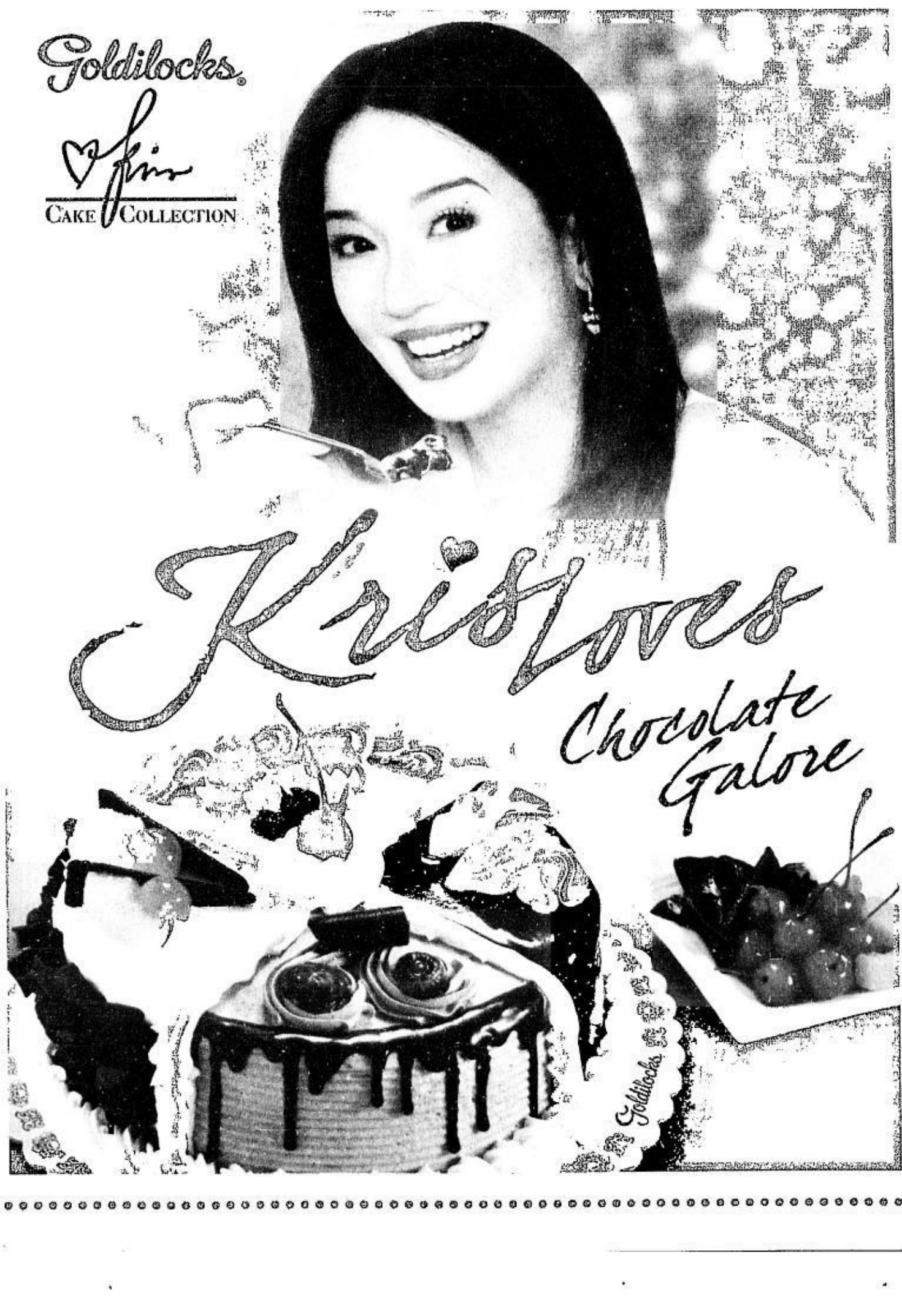
In a word, watching Kris Aquino savor a Goldilocks Chocolate Galore Cake is enthralling. Of course, much of the appeal comes from the celebrity herself, as she is undoubtedly one of the country's most prominent personalities. But beneath the stunning glamor, there is an unmistakable honesty about her; a genuineness that has long become her trademark. As she savors every bite, it is clear that Kris Aquino, local multi-media icon, is an unabashed fan of Goldilocks Bakeshop just like millions of Filipinos.

"I admit, there are times when I'm inclined to skip the meal and go straight to the dessert," Kris confided. "Lalo na when it's a Goldilocks cake. Look at this Chocolate Galore na lang... how can you resist?" she emphasized. "Everyone knows naman how straight-to-the-point I am. If you serve one of my favorite Goldilocks cakes, baka straight-to-dessert na din ako," she added with a laugh.

Kris acknowledges that with her penchant for desserts, it is sometimes difficult to choose, given the wide variety of cake variants available in Goldilocks. "Siyempre, even if I wanted to have them all hindi pwede," she pointed out. "That's why the Chocolate Galore cake is really one of my favorites. It's actually a combination of four unique chocolate cake favorites: Tippy Choco, Chocolate Symphony, Choco Cherry Torte, and a Black Forest Cake. With one cake, all your chocolate cravings are satisfied in different ways," Kris further noted.

A perfect blend of distinct yet complementary qualities, coming together to form an exceptional whole — this description could be equally applied to the Goldilocks Chocolate Galore cake and Kris Aquino herself. "Oo nga no? No wonder I love this cake so much. Tanong ninyo si James if he agrees!" Kris teased.

We inform her that James has identified another common trait that Kris shares with Goldilocks cakes: they are both sweet and delightful. "Alam mo, kaya nga basketball star si James eh, magaling siyang mambola," was the obviously-charmed Kris' reply to her husband's flattering remark. "Look at him, he's so busy enjoying his food, so I'd better leave some of this Chocolate Galore Cake for him dahil mamaya maghahanap na 'yan ng dessert," she added.



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No-fuss design suits busy lifestyle

SYLVIA Bautista opts for scaled-down furniture in the dining and sitting areas in keeping with the unit's limited space.

# A tale of two units

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Roger Margallo

WHEN BUTCH Nayona and Sylvia Bautista hired the services of architect Dante Aguirre to design their respective condo units sometime ago, the two accomplished singles had a number of requirements that were quite similar.

Nayona and Bautista have yet to meet each other, but like thousands of nameless, faceless executives based in Metro Manila, they work long hours in the office. Since both live alone most of the time, they have precious little time to spare fussing over minute details.

In short, they each wanted a practical and functional place to come home to at the end of a long, hard working day. Yet their tastes and personalities couldn't have been more different.

"Both units can be classified as modern fusion," says Aguirre. "I opted for modern bedrooms and resorted to a mixture of themes in other spaces based on what they like."

Nayona asked Aguirre to design a bedroom that could lull him to sleep even during the day.

"As a call center manager, I used to work odd hours," Nayona explains. "I wanted a room that's dark and minimalist enough to help me quickly fall asleep."

Nayona has since left the call-center industry to strike out on his own as a human resources training consultant. But he retained the look of his Pasig unit, including the master bedroom with its "walk-in bathroom" and ash-gray walls. He converted a second, much smaller room into a library.

"Since the bathroom came with a shower stall, I asked Dante to do away with the door," he says.

## Low bed

When there are visitors, Nayona merely locks the door leading to his bedroom-cum-office to get some privacy while doing his morning rituals. Apart from a series of built-in shelves, he opted for a low bed covered in dark sheets to set it off from the bleached narra floor.

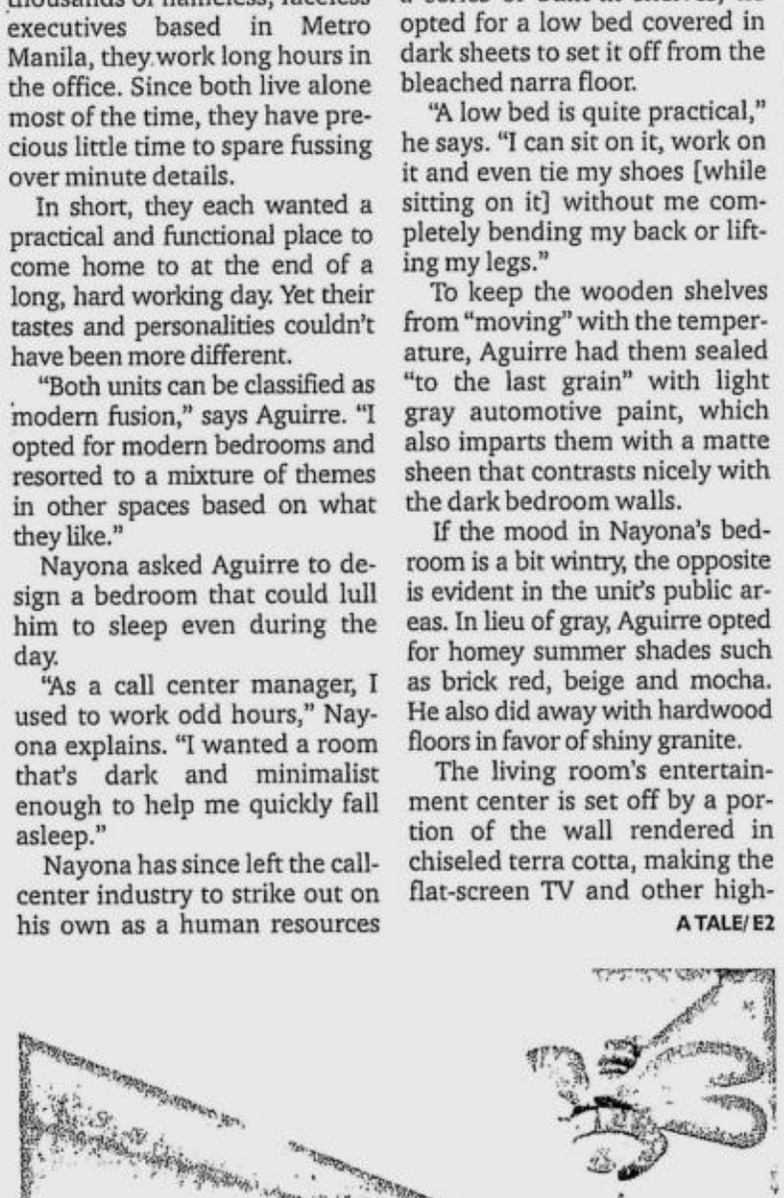
"A low bed is quite practical," he says. "I can sit on it, work on it and even tie my shoes [while sitting on it] without me completely bending my back or lifting my legs."

To keep the wooden shelves from "moving" with the temperature, Aguirre had them sealed "to the last grain" with light gray automotive paint, which also imparts them with a matte sheen that contrasts nicely with the dark bedroom walls.

If the mood in Nayona's bedroom is a bit wintry, the opposite is evident in the unit's public areas. In lieu of gray, Aguirre opted for homey summer shades such as brick red, beige and mocha. He also did away with hardwood floors in favor of shiny granite.

The living room's entertainment center is set off by a portion of the wall rendered in chiseled terra cotta, making the flat-screen TV and other high-

A TALE/ E2



WHO needs a lot of movable chairs? Certainly not Butch Nayona who mixes it up with portable and built-in pieces in the dining area.

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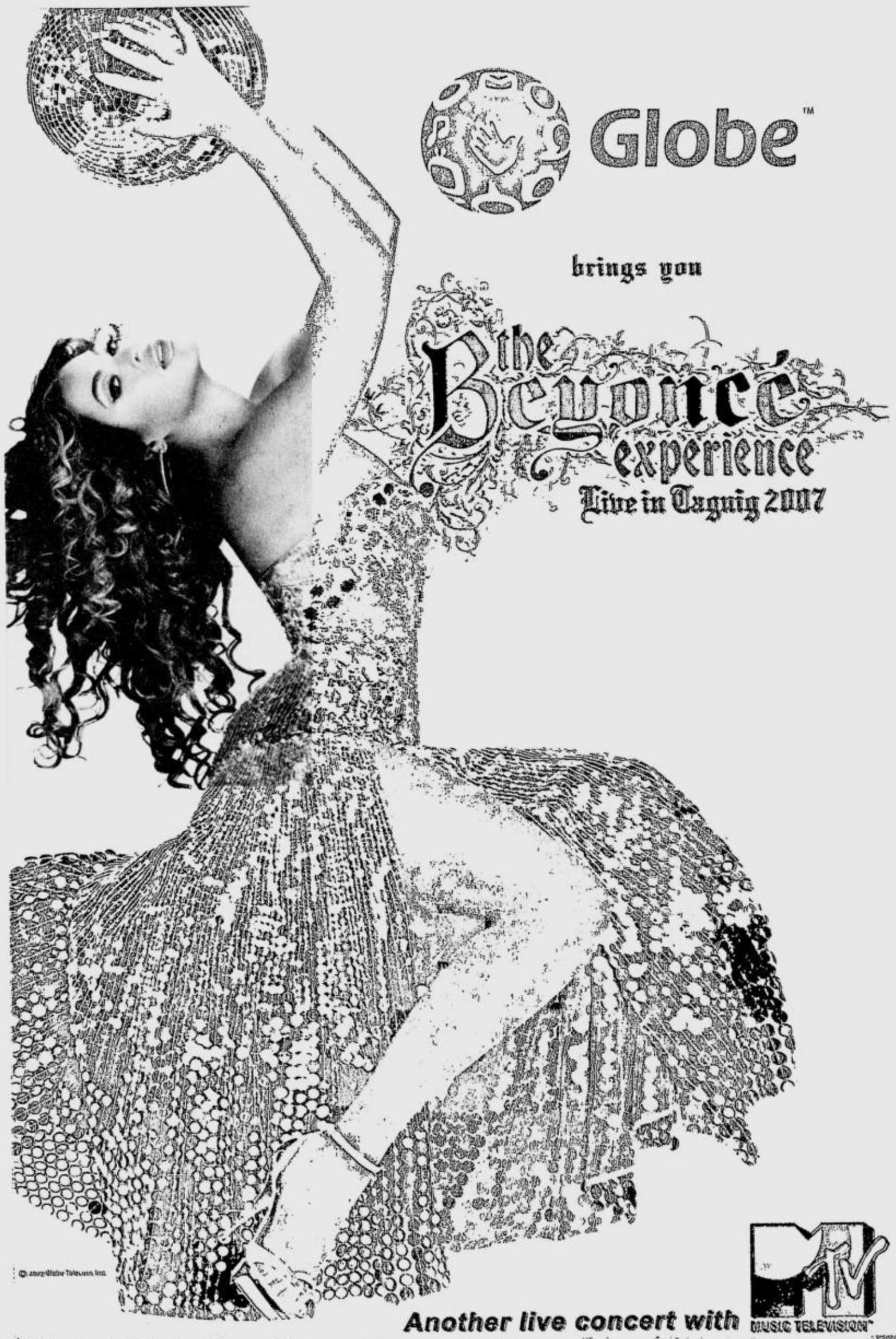

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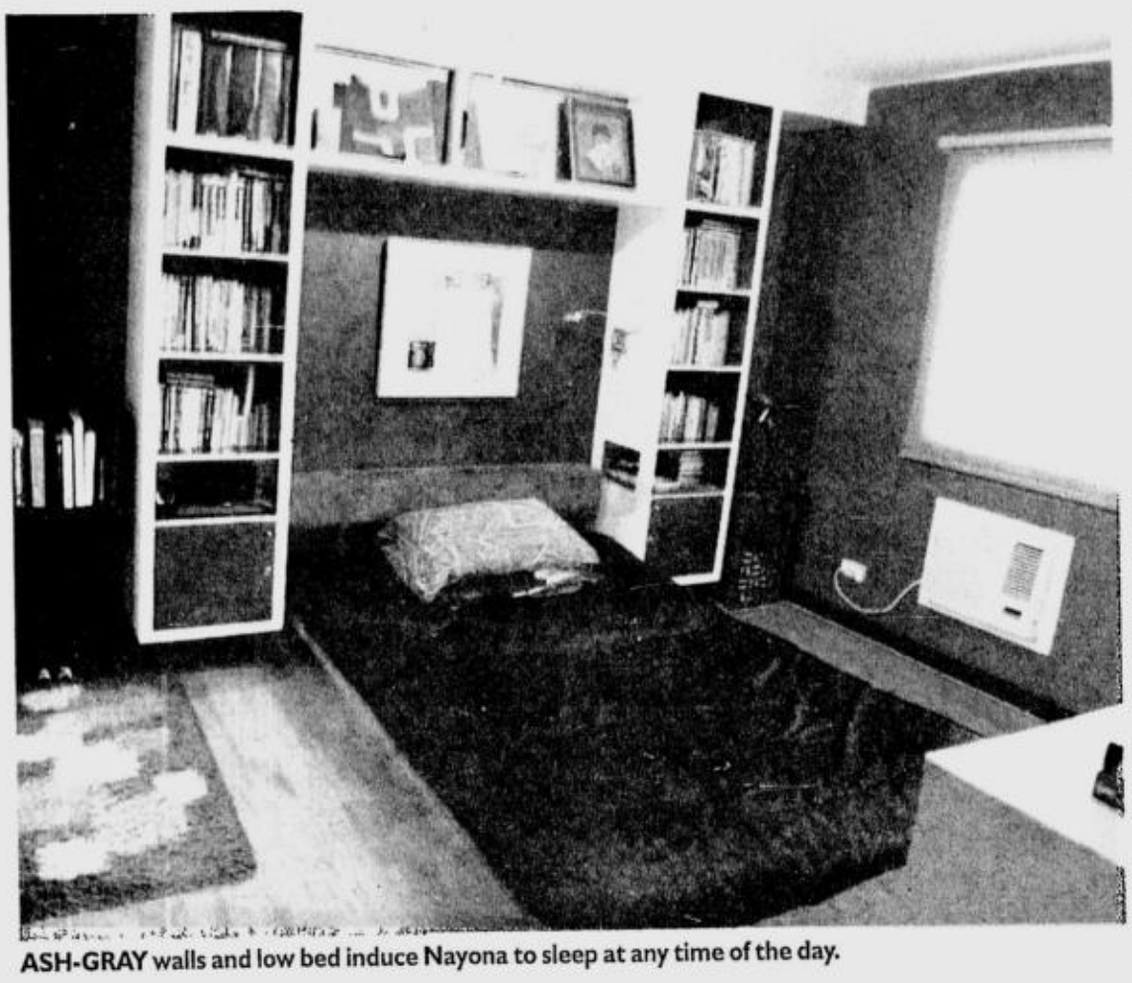
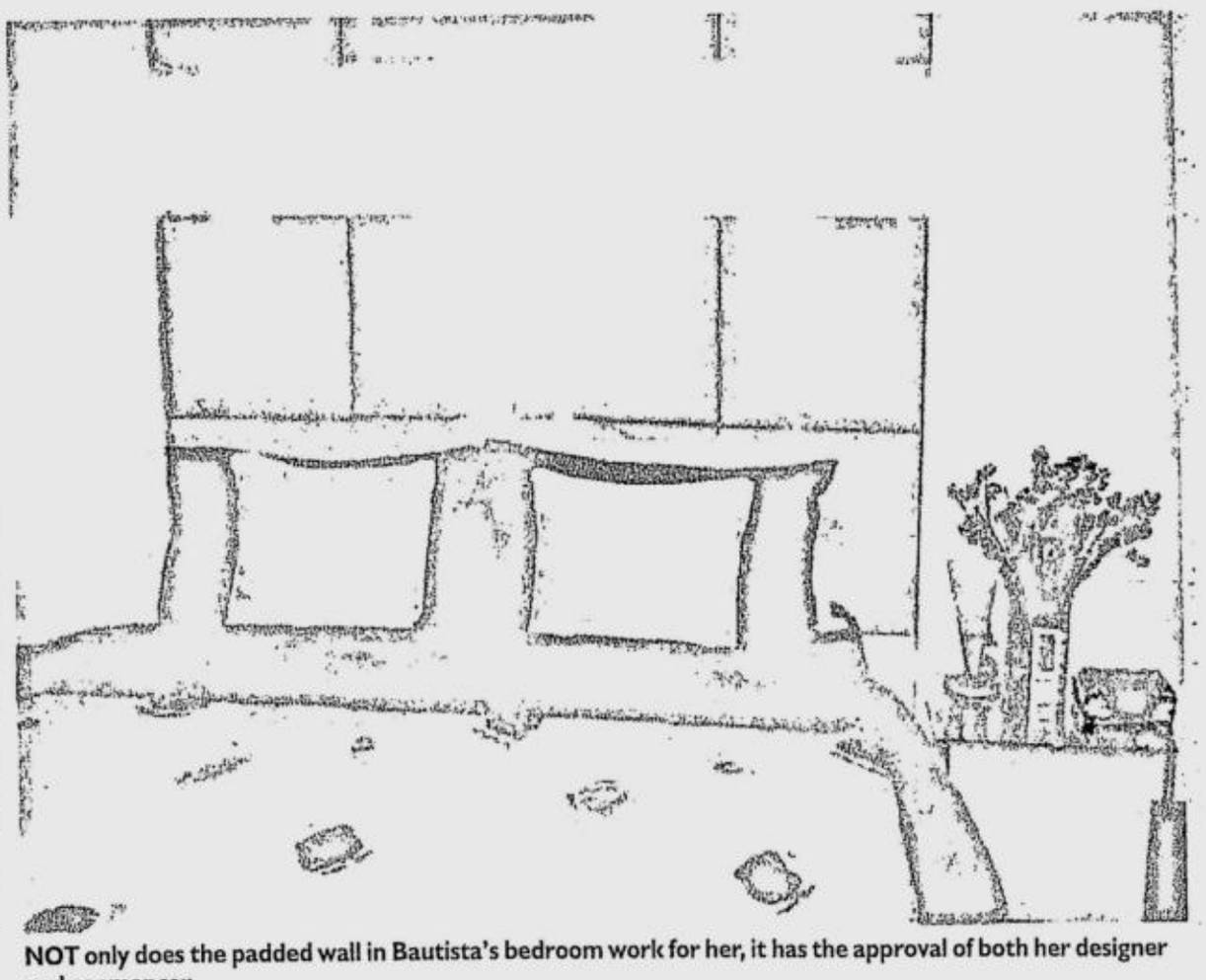


ASH-GRAY walls and low bed induce Nayona to sleep at any time of the day.



NOT only does the padded wall in Bautista's bedroom work for her, it has the approval of both her designer and geomancer.

# A tale of two units

From page E1

tech gadgets focal points in themselves.

A series of built-in compartments and wall-mounted shelves mirrors a similar set-up in the dining area. In lieu of compartments, Nayona opted for a long, L-shaped wooden seat that rests permanently on the wall.

"The dining table also doubles as my work table because I now work half of the time at home," he says. "I have no intention of moving any of my chairs."

A series of built-in wooden shelves in the dining area features various accent pieces Nayona acquired from his travels to Japan, Korea and Vietnam. The Oriental theme is repeated in an indoor Japanese rock garden complete with faux bamboo shoots that sits by the unit's window.

## Mood

"I find Japanese and Korean pieces very subtle," he says. "I prefer them over ornate pieces usually associated with the Chinese."

It's a good thing Nayona had the foresight to buy two adjacent units. He asked Aguirre to knock down the wall separating the two units before he had him redesign the entire space.

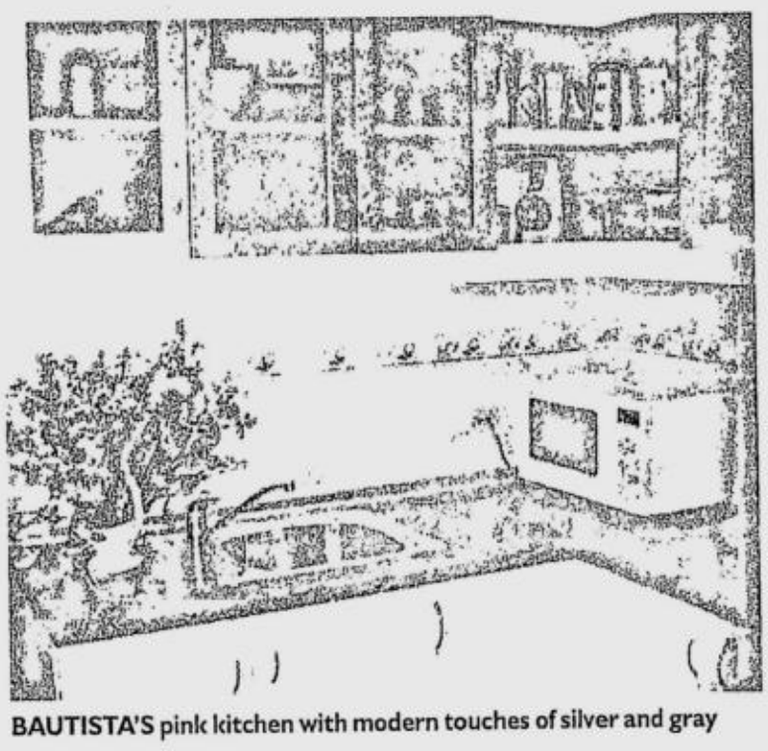
Apart from a mood corridor complete with ecclesiastical symbols and a small indoor fountain set on a pedestal and illuminated by cove lighting, the additional space afforded Nayona, who loves to cook, a bigger-than-usual kitchen.

Cabinets and sliding drawers made of kiln-dried wood and opaque glass betray their owner's penchant for organization. For a more modern touch, he settled for an ochre backsplash made of tempered glass paired with shiny granite countertops.

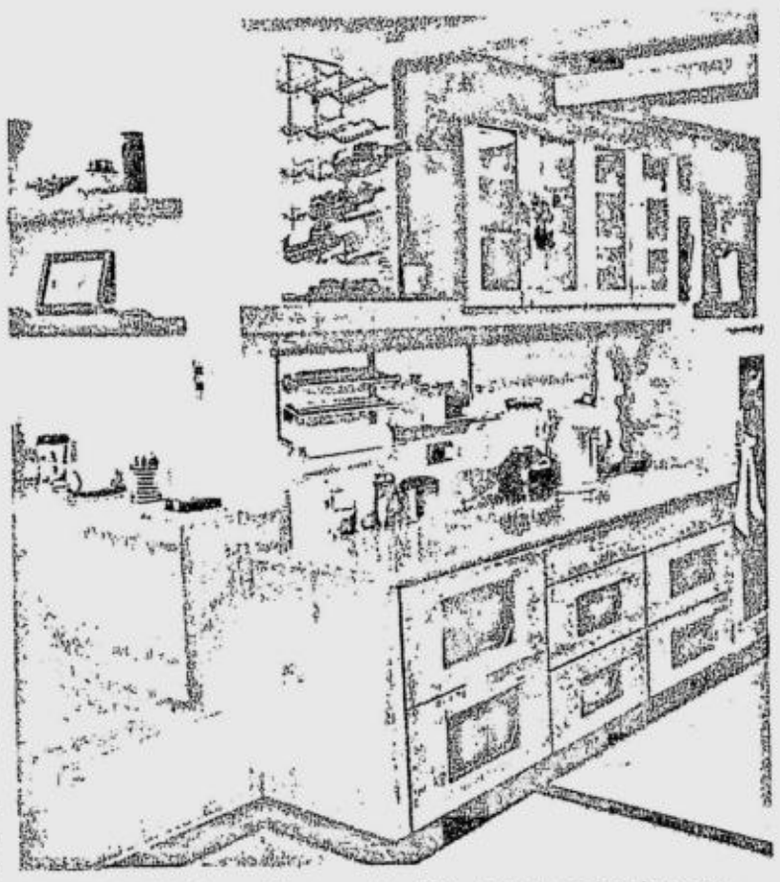
Bautista, on the other hand, wanted a bedroom that's bright and easy to maintain. She also requested Aguirre to design a number of built-in cabinets for storage as well as aesthetic purposes.

"Short of asking Dante to remove all those unsightly indoor plumbing," says the customer services manager of an American multinational company, "I asked him to cover them with functional as well as faux cabinets."

Aguirre did that and more. Since not all pipes can be concealed under cabinets, he resorted to such devices as beams and cove lighting, evident in Bautista's grayish green master bedroom with a padded leather headboard.



BAUTISTA'S pink kitchen with modern touches of silver and gray



NAYONA'S kitchen cabinets made of kiln-dried wood and opaque sheets of glass betray his penchant for organization.

## Geomancy

Bautista consulted a feng shui master in Manila before she moved into her two-story, two-bedroom Mandaluyong unit a couple of years ago. Fortunately, Aguirre didn't have to do major rework to conform to the geomancer's recommendations.

"I had my headboard padded so that my head won't be directly under a beam when I sleep," she explains. "I also had Dante wrap sharp edges in my room with leather pads."

Since it's not often one encounters a high-ceilinged stairwell in a condo unit (if there's one at all!), Aguirre didn't let the space go to waste.

He had a blown-up picture of a sunflower framed and nailed to the ceiling as a focal point. A round light diffuser (or, in this case, enhancer) made of countless strings of shiny fiberglass dangles from the ceiling-mounted photo and casts its irregular shadow on the wall.

Aguirre also did a wall installation made of dried plants, including fragrant eucalyptus leaves, by the stairs. The sunflower's color, actually, ties in with the first floor's color scheme, which ranges from dusty orange to rich ochre.

The color scheme gradually changes from orange to lime green, warm to cool, fall to spring, as one climbs the naturally varnished stairs and into the two bedrooms on the second floor.

To add an illusion of space in the dining room, which also doubles as a sitting area, Bautista had a huge mirror installed beside the four-seat dining table.

"The mirror also doubles the amount of blessings that have come my way," she says.

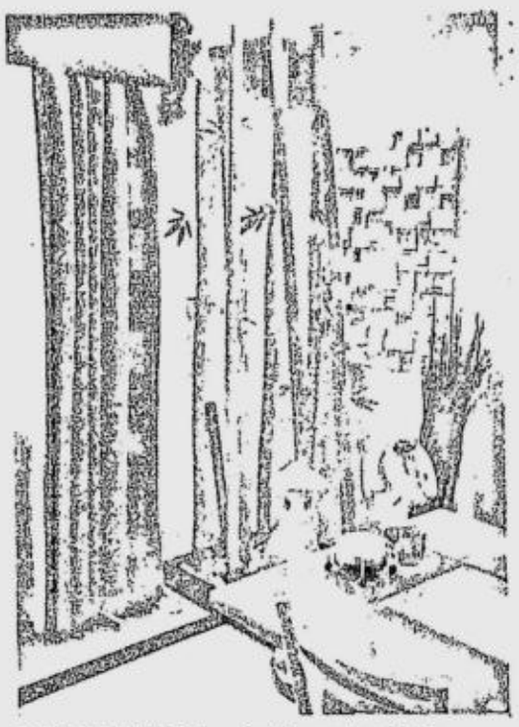
Unlike Nayona, however, Bautista has very little time to cook so she settled for a smaller kitchen. Even then, Aguirre designed a small, but charming space for her to prepare breakfast and cook the occasional pasta.

The pink kitchen, as Aguirre describes it, is infused with shots of silver and gray in the form of accent tiles to give the area a modern feel.

Instead of brooms and other cleaning implements, Bautista keeps her dozens upon dozens of shoes (it seems no woman can have enough of 'em) in a "secret" compartment in the kitchen, right underneath the stairs.

Rather than do it alone, Aguirre believes in collaborating with his clients. There's no other way to do it, he says, if you both want to produce a finished product that's mutually acceptable.

HIGH-ceilinged stairwell is not wasted.



THE ORIENTAL inspiration extends to Nayona's mini Zen garden featuring river rocks and faux bamboo shoots.

For instance, he asked Bautista to source for curtains and various accent pieces, including Oriental-inspired tableware.

"A designer can't do it alone," says Aguirre, who is scheduled to leave for Canada to work on several design projects. "I always encourage my clients to improve on their respective units so their personalities would eventually come out through their homes."

*Aguirre may be reached at 0917-8122218.*

# *New look for hardware store*

FEEL at home in True Value Power Plant Mall, a one-stop shopper-centric hardware and houseware store now offering more lifestyle options.

TRUE VALUE HOME CENTER, NOW PART of the Robinsons Retail Group, unveiled recently its new look at the Power Plant Mall.

Loaded with practically everything needed at home, the chain's various outlets carry a wide variety of high-quality imported hardware and houseware items.

True Value offers a broad variety of merchandise for home improvement, lawn and garden, motor vehicles, electrical fixtures, decorating accessories, etc.

The True Value Home Center Power Plant Mall features a shopper-friendly format with large signs for better visibility and ease of navigation.

General manager Johnson Go says they are making a wider range of home-care products at the True Value Power Plant Mall, particularly high-quality imported home-improvement essentials that are exclusive to True Value.

The unveiling of the new True Value look was hosted by Sam Oh. Light installations spelling True Value's slogan, "Start Right. Start Here," were turned on by guests of honor including United States Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney, International Territory manager Joe John Gomez, Far Eastern University Board of Trustees chair Dr. Lourdes Montinola and Rockwell Land Corp. president Nestor Padilla.

Fr. Hener Geronimo blessed the store after which coins and candies were tossed for luck.

True Value Home Center is also at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Park Square 1 Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center in Cebu.

PIA Young, Annie Young, Ginny de Guzman and Randy Young

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney

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# Tips for Halloween costume

NEED HELP RAISING YOUR COSTUME for Halloween from so-so to zany?

Here are a few tips. If you are dressing up as a police officer, make a squad car out of a cardboard box. To your ice cream man costume, attach a doll to each leg to symbolize kids hanging onto you and scrambling to get the ice cream.

Dressing as a nurse may seem not too exciting unless you turn yourself into a "crazy nurse" carrying a giant cardboard needle and an enema.

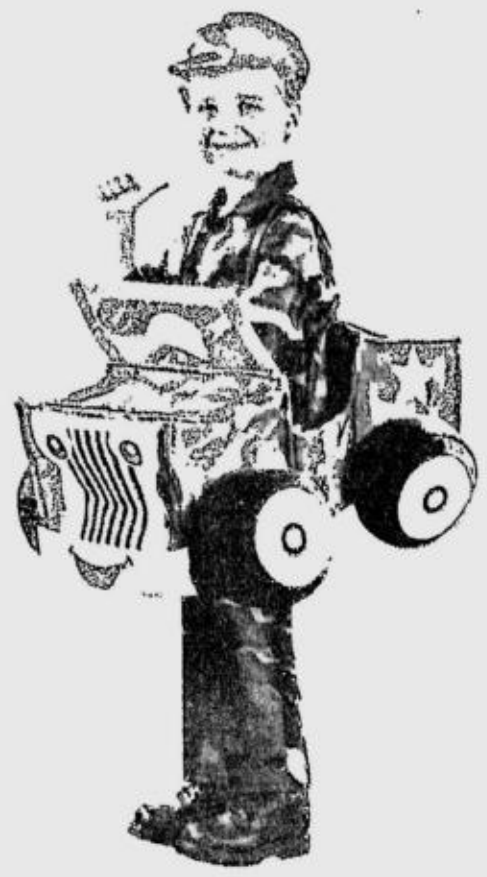
Most props can be found around the house or borrowed. If you need more, shop in thrift stores and look for unusual and utilitarian clothes and accessories.

Then put your clever ideas on display at the "Hallowee," the traditional Halloween costume competition of Festival Supermall in Filicity Alabang.

To be held on Oct. 31 at 3 p.m., it is open to kids aged 5-10. Registration forms are available at the mall's Customer Service Counter on the second level.

Mall-wide trick or treating awaits customers.

Festival Supermall in Filicity, Alabang has over 600 stores. Mall hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. (tel. 8503514, www.festivalsupermall.com).



**COME** as a soldier in a military truck.

# Hollow out a pumpkin . . .

From page E4

dle in the bottom of the pumpkin. If the candle does not stand, place it on a small, non-flammable plate or make a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin to hold the candle.

10. Carved pumpkins will be exposed to the elements and will dry out and shrivel. Molds will also develop. To reduce shriveling, coat the cut edges (exposed parts) with petroleum jelly. Revive a shriveled pumpkin by soaking it in water for a few hours. If the pumpkin will not be displayed immediately, store it by wrapping it in plastic and keeping it in the refrigerator.

The Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants, Inc. (www.orchid.ph) is at the Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, Edsa corner Quezon Ave., Quezon City, tels. 9242730 and 9260159, fax 9241271; G/F, Colbella Arcade, 910 Arnaiz Ave., Makati, tel. 8132190, fax 8435303; and Bolcan St., Agdao, Davao, tels. 82-2264446 and 2218248, fax 82-2211395.

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1. The promo is open to all cellular phone subscribers: Globe/TM, Smart/ Addict / Talk n Text and Sun.
2. To participate, a consumer must buy Mentos Plus Berry Mix OR Mentos Plus Citrus Mix at any Mercury Drug stores nationwide and send the OR# to 2966 in the below format

   MENTOSPLUS OR#XYZ/<name>/<gender>/<age>/<address>
   for example MENTOSPLUS OR#165479/joy febre/m/30/1 san miguel avenue, pasig city
3. A consumer can participate only once through a unique OR#, If the consumer wishes to participate more than once, he/she will be required to purchase one more box of Mentos Plus Citrus or Berry Mix and send the new OR# to 2966. One OR# corresponds to one entry. The more entries sent the bigger chances of winning!
4. The second time a consumer participates in the contest, the consumer needs to send only the OR#, for example MENTOSPLUS OR#67894.
5. Cost per text is Php 2.50 for Globe and Smart subscribers and Php 2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
6. Customers will receive a SMS confirmation after sending their entries.
7. Raffle Draw will be held every Monday via electronic draw under the supervision of a BFAD representative.
8. The following prizes can be won
   a. Php 1000 worth of Mercury Drug Gift Certificate: 2 winners DAILY for 75 days
   b. Php 10,000 CASH: 2 Winners WEEKLY for 10 weeks
   c. Php 100,000 Grand Prize - 1 Winner
9. Non-cash prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Prizes will be forfeited if it remains unclaimed 60 days after receiving the registered mail.
11. All entries sent are qualified for the grand prize draw. All daily and weekly winners will not be entitled for another weekly/daily prize but they still will be eligible for the grand prize.
12. The following are disqualified from entering the raffle: Employees of Perfetti Van Melle and its Regional Distributors, Benby Enterprises, The Arc Group, Mercury Drug and their spouses, and relatives up to the second degree of affinity (by marriage) and consaguinity (by blood).
13. Consumers can participate in the grand draw until the midnight of November 15, 2007.
14. Promo period is from September 3 to November 15,2007. Grand Draw is on November 20, 2007.

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AT LAGING BAGO

To Join. text:
MENTOSPLUS to 2966


# SUNDAY CROSSWORD

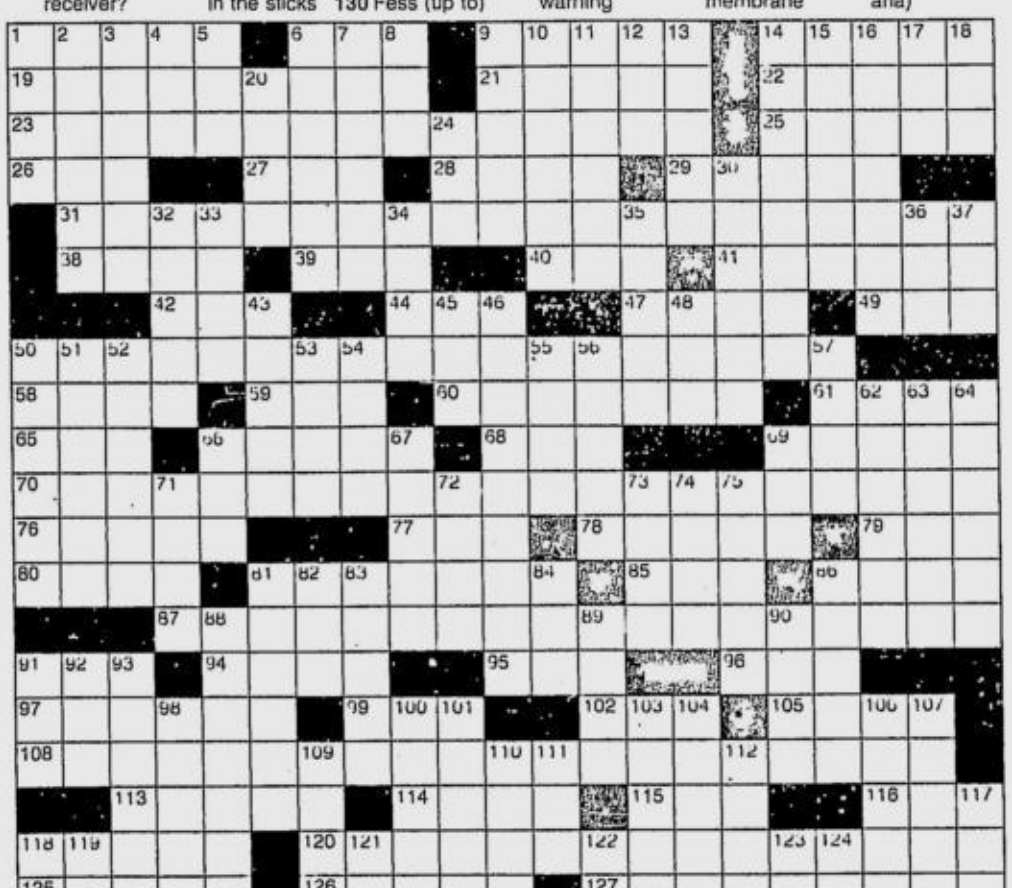
## PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — THE BARD

**ACROSS**

1 Treat like dirt
6 Jazz variety
9 Papier- —
14 Part of USMC
19 Necklace pendant
21 Dramatist Fugard
22 "Love Story" co-star Ryan
23 Track made in the snow by sleds?
25 Loan shark's crime
26 — Francisco
27 Booking for a band
28 Israeli army guns
29 Ruhr Valley city
31 Big fuss made over purling?
38 Prefix with nautical
39 Nav. rank
40 Guys
41 Canadian pol Pearson
42 In the manner of
44 3, on a sundial
47 Vicinity
49 Audio receiver?
50 Shopkeeper from another planet?
58 Cut of beef
59 — Bo (workout system)
60 Bend aside
61 Zapata's "zilch"
65 Psychic Geller
66 Buenos —, Argentina
68 Long, narrow inlet
69 Skyscraper
70 Comment after a broken bone heals?
76 "The Piano" actor Sam
77 Enjoy supper
78 January, to Juan
79 Dublin is its cap.
80 Counselor Deanna on a "Star Trek" series
81 District of ancient Palestine
85 Assembly line org.
86 Opposed to, in the sticks
87 Breaking in a sneaker that doesn't fit well?
91 Quart divs.
94 Digital music player
95 Stylist's goo
96 Toronto is its cap.
97 Exceed
99 Cleo's snake
102 Driving exam curve
105 Alternative to Alpo
108 Bit of liquor enjoyed on an August evening?
113 Poem device
114 Ocho —, Jamaica
115 Sound for the doctor
116 Salesperson
118 Honcho
120 Funny fact about historic periods?
125 — dish (lab container)
126 Parts of old alphabets
127 Ones hanging around
128 PC button
129 Like Buddha or Santa
130 Fess (up to)
131 Cente:

**DOWN**

1 Cockpit stats
2 Grand — (Atlantic island)
3 Broad street
4 Visualized
5 Yale Bowl player
6 Happen to
7 Salem site
8 — capita
9 Passover bread
10 Skylit room
11 Pure
12 -- polloi
13 Actress Barkin
14 Jacques of undersea exploration
15 Initial stages
16 Team up again
17 Average
18 Shifty
20 Swenson of "Benson"
24 Nemo's ship
30 Hushed
32 Inhibit
33 Mouse pad?
34 Nepal locale
35 Scoundrel
36 Teacher's org.
37 Mutt's warning
43 Shaw of swing
45 Hoosier St.
46 Saying over and over
48 VCR abbr.
50 AWOL student
51 One tossing
52 Estevez of "Repo Man"
53 Sagan or Jung
54 Sock part
55 Just for the heck —
56 Lick of fire
57 Igloo stuff
62 "Anchors —!"
63 Actress Dolores
64 Francis of "What's My Line?"
66 Belt-piercing tool
67 Vapor
69 General on Chinese menus
71 Narrow cut
72 Spy Mata -
73 Sufficient, informally
74 — as a pin
75 TV time traveler
81 Dividing membrane
82 From — Z
83 Sir's counterpart
84 Get mellow
86 "— Is Born"
88 Temper tantrum
89 Designer Cassini
90 Author Bagnold
91 Tiger Woods' org.
92 Actor Cruise
93 Ghosts
98 Cling (to)
100 Calm
101 Data on tags
103 Cast image
104 Forgo a night out
106 Damaged
107 Fingerpaints
109 MGM part
110 Lasso loop
111 Suffix with journal
112 Filmed
117 "Hey, you over there"
118 EMT specialty
119 — -haw
121 Wheel part
122 "Evil Woman" gp.
123 Opposite of masc.
124 "— tu" (Verdi aria)



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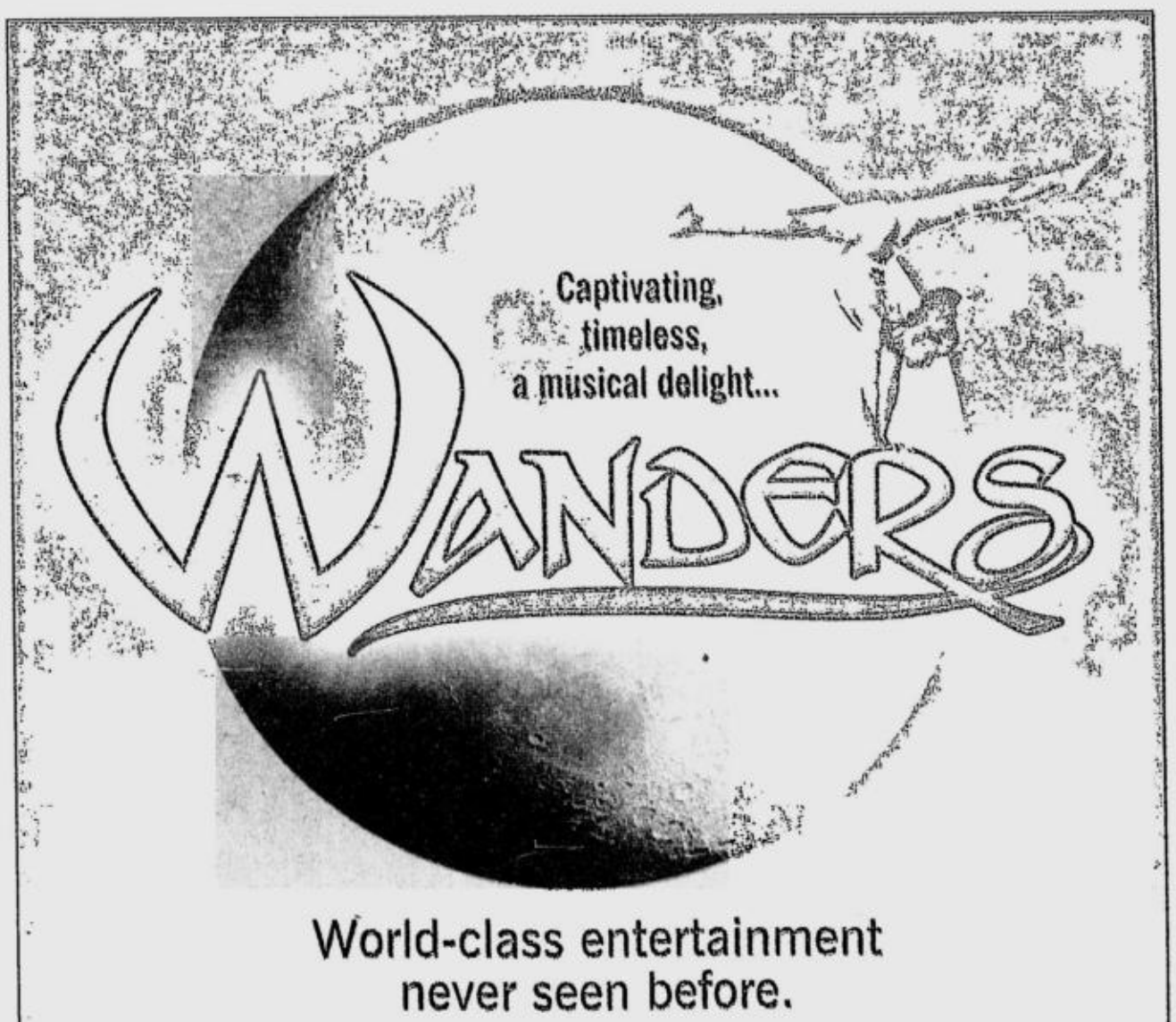


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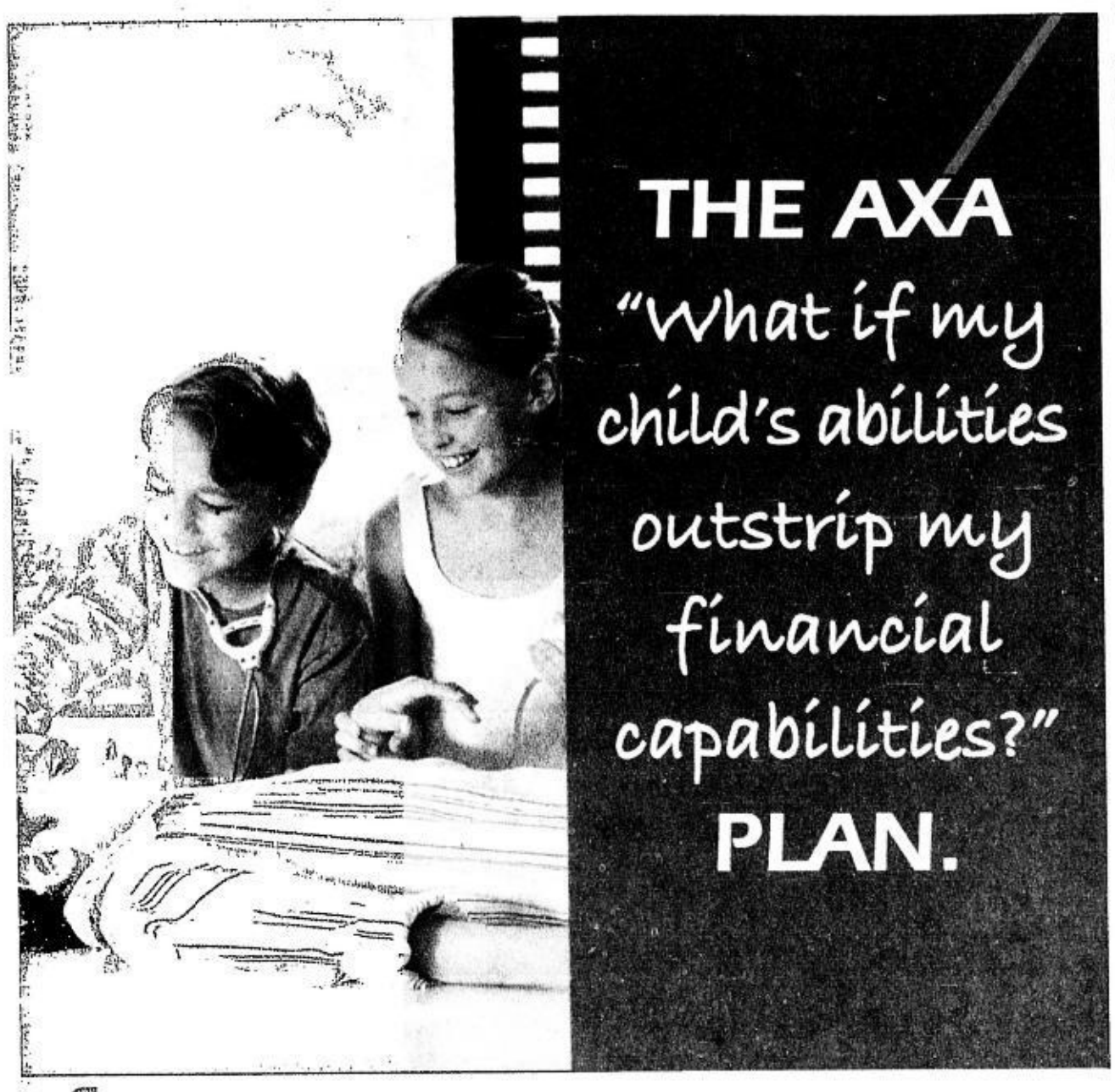
and all CASINO FILIPINO branches in Metro Manila

Throw away those paper and cardboard jack-o'-lanterns on Oct. 31 because the real thing is here

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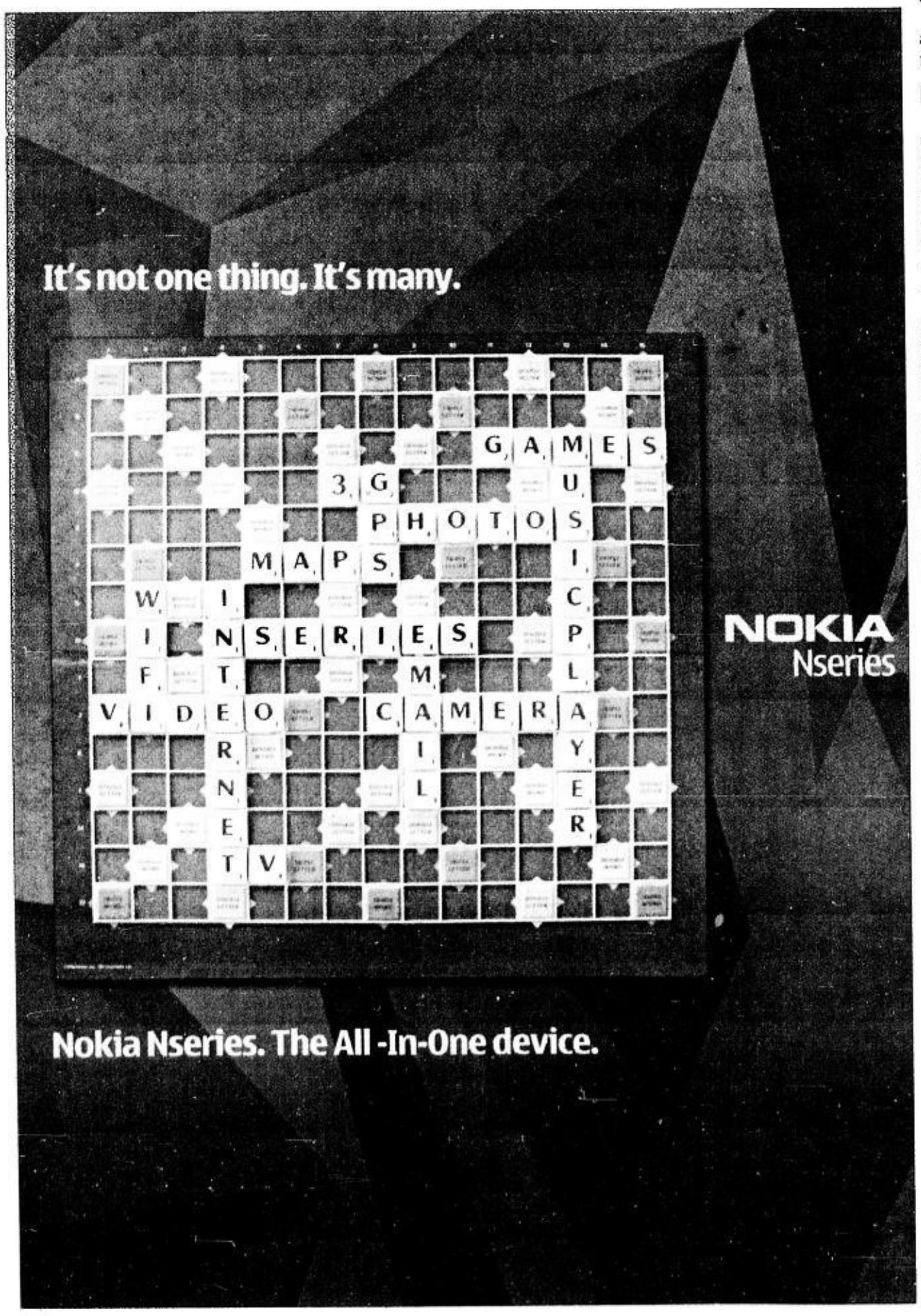


REX Puentespina's pumpkins come with a manual on carving.

# Hollow out a pumpkin for Halloween

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Roger Carpio

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO mark "All Hallow Even," Halloween for short, on Oct. 31, the eve of All Saint's Day, why settle for paper and cardboard pumpkins to achieve the effect you want when the real thing is just a phone call away?

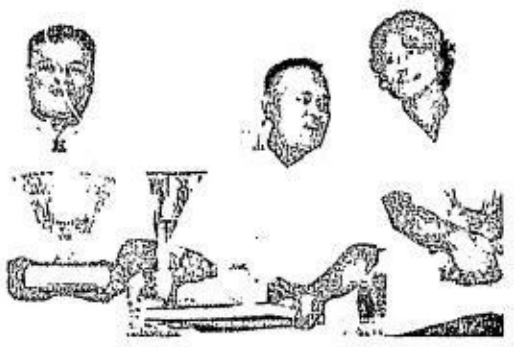
Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants, Inc. has fresh Philippine-grown pumpkins that you can carve into jack-o'-lanterns or any other shapes you want. You can even have them in all sizes from miniature to giants and in different shapes—round, oblong, pear-like.

Rex Puentespina said the pumpkins were grown in their farm in Davao City from seeds they got from the United States. The local *kalabasa* would not do for this traditional trimming for Halloween. It is too full of meat, thus thicker and difficult to carve.

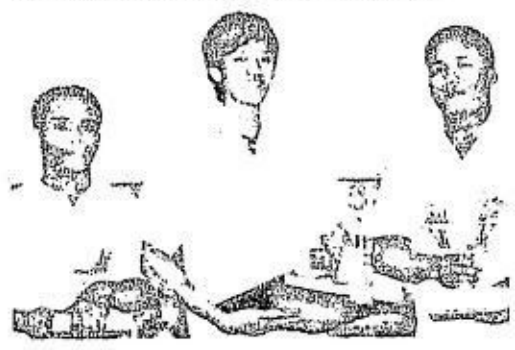
American pumpkin, on the other hand, has very thin meat and practically hollow inside. In fact, Puentespina said they would not carve pumpkins for clients because they easily spoiled.

Anyway, he said, it was quite easy to cut them out into whatever shapes people wanted.

But pumpkins, though traditionally associated with Halloween, need not be a seasonal buy.



CUNA cup winners: (top) Professional: Henry Pansacula (1st), Emil Pascua Gaspar (2nd), and Angelito D. Caitom (3rd); (below) Amateur: Rodelio B. Vista (1st), Mario J. de Vera (2nd), and Romanico R. Raza (3rd)



## Not just for Halloween

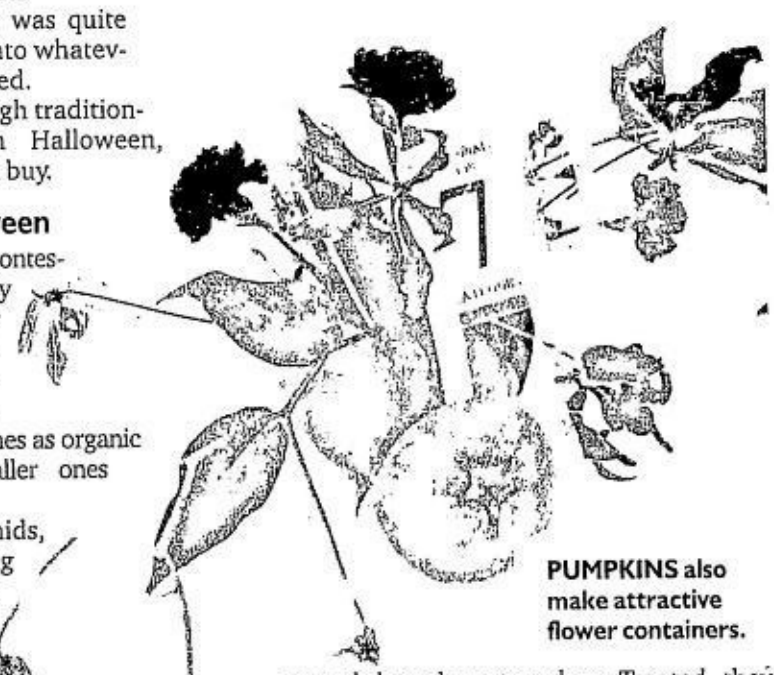
As demonstrated by contestants in the recent Rachy Z. Cuna Cup Award for Floral Excellence, the pumpkins can enhance floral arrangements. They used the bigger ones as organic vases while the smaller ones served as accents.

Puentespina Orchids, together with King Louis Flowers and Plants, Agrikultura Filipina, Inc. and Jasam Floral Sundries, sponsored the competition named after Cuna, acknowledged as the floral architect of the Philippines.

Some party hosts have also discovered that smaller pumpkins, with their varied colors, odd shapes and different sizes, make an excellent alternative to floral arrangements as table centerpieces and other decorative items.

But if you only have the coming Halloween in mind, Puentespina offers this step-by-step process for carving the pumpkin:

1. Use sharp tools but make sure they are handled properly so as not to cause injury. Children must be closely supervised by adults at all times. If a candle is used, keep it away from any fuel source and do not leave it unattended. Do not carve the pumpkin too early. Carved pumpkins, if untreated, last about two days. Treated, they can keep for three to four days.



PUMPKINS also make attractive flower containers.

2. You will need newspapers, rag, marker, pattern, scraper (large spoon or ice cream scoop) pushpin or nail, small hand saw or small kitchen knife, and petroleum jelly.

3. For easy cleanup, put the pumpkin on several layers of newspaper. Clean the outside of the pumpkin with a wet rag to remove dirt.

4. Cut a six-sided lid on top. Angle a saw or knife toward the center of the pumpkin to create a ledge that supports the lid. Make sure the hole is large enough for you to reach in and take out the seeds and stringy membrane.

5. Using the flat-edged ice cream scoop or the special pumpkin scoop, remove the seeds and strings. Scrape the pumpkin wall from the part where carving will be done until it is about one-inch thick. If a challenging pattern is being attempted, scrape the pumpkin so that the wall is about one-half inch thick.

6. Select, draw and print the pattern to be carved and tape or pin to the pumpkin. Make sure the pattern lines match up. The pattern may have to be folded slightly to fit a round pumpkin.

7. Using a pushpin or a poker tool, make pinpoint marks 1/16" - 1/8" apart along the design lines. Ensure the design has been transferred completely before taking the pattern off the pumpkin.

8. Using a carving saw or sculpting knife, saw or cut dot-to-dot using a gentle up and down motion.

9. Locate and cut a chimney for the candle. The chimney is not needed if a flashlight or battery candle is used. Put the can-

HOLLOW/ E3

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

# ENTERTAINMENT

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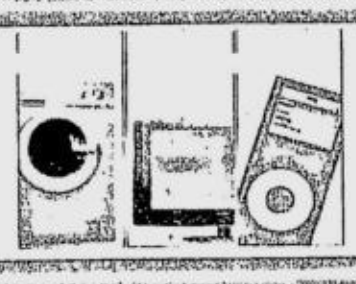
## *Game Girls named on QTV today*

THE SEARCH FOR FIVE GIRLS to comprise the pop band Lineage 2 Game Girls ends with the proclamation of winners on QTV 11's "May Trabaho Ka!" reality show at 8 tonight.

Eight finalists—Nicole Saint, Jackie Manglona, Sarah Josef, Mycie Villanueva, Lorraine Sy, Ariane

GAME/ F2

ABENSON



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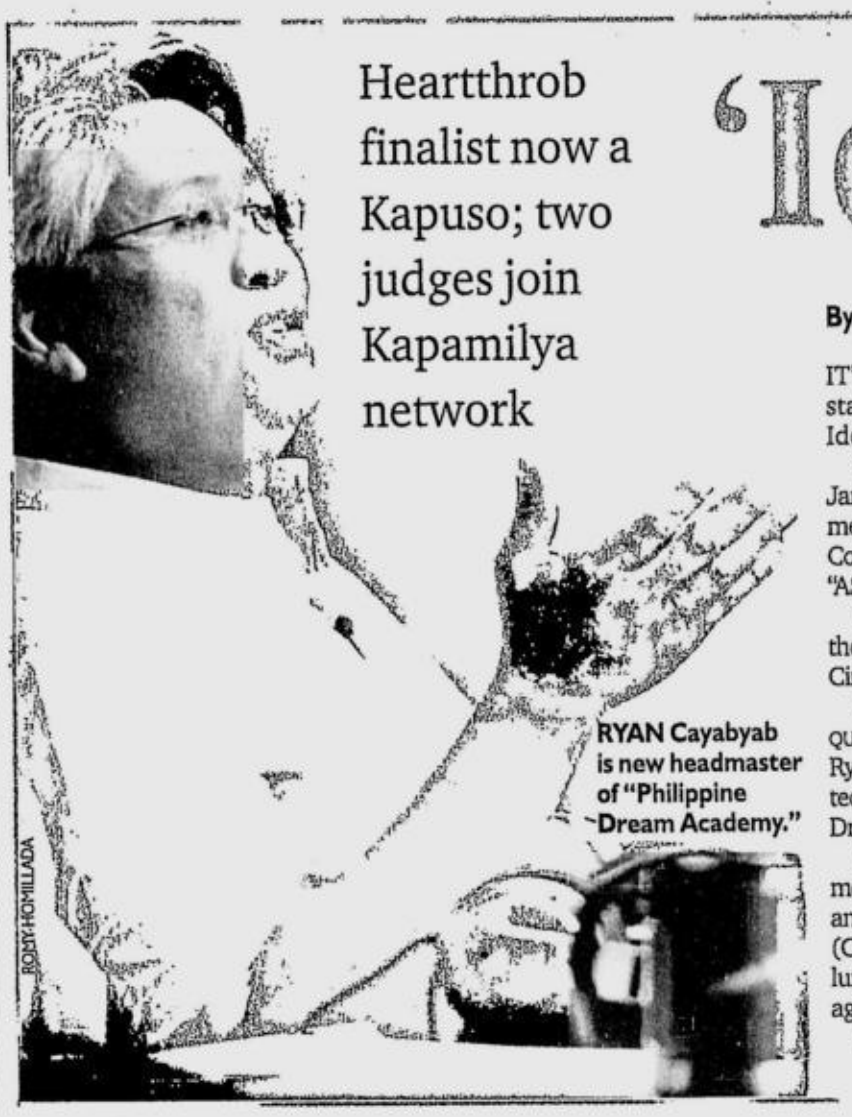
# 'Idol'rigodon

## Heartthrob finalist now a Kapuso; two judges join Kapamilya network



ROBBY HOMILLADA

RYAN Cayabyab is new headmaster of "Philippine Dream Academy."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS FOR stars of the first season of "Philippine Idol."

On the same day that Top Three finalist Jan Nieto was launched as the newest cast member of GMA 7's "SOP," "Idol" judge Pilita Corrales was given a tribute on ABS-CBN's "ASAP."

It was announced that Pilita was joining the cast of the Kapamilya show "Lovespell: Cindy Rella."

An ABS-CBN insider later informed INQUIRER Entertainment that "Idol" main judge Ryan Cayabyab was about to "sign the dotted line as the new headmaster of 'Pinoy Dream Academy.'"

The source said Mr. C had long been meeting with PDA director Laurenti Dyogi, and that it had been decided that he (Cayabyab) would handle the music curriculum of Star Magic, the network's talent management arm, on top of his new PDA job.

It's a homecoming of sorts for him. "Ryan, Ryan Musikahan" was aired by ABS-CBN in the late 1980s through the early '90s.

The other Ryan on "Idol," host Ryan Agoncillo, would also be joining PDA, according to another source.

### Long wait

For Jan, it was a long wait—nine and a half months of languishing in uncertainty.

"I got depressed once or twice because I wasn't doing anything," he told INQUIRER.

The ABC 5 reality contest wrapped up last December. A month later, fellow Top Three finalist Gian Magdangal was already a regular on GMA 7's Sunday noontime variety show "SOP."

Jan, on the other hand, had much earlier quit his job as customer marketing manager in the manufacturing firm Unilever.

"My friends and I used to mark our calendars. One Sunday, I'd be on 'SOP'—I really wished it," Jan recalled.

On Oct. 14, his wish was granted.

On top of "SOP," he's also working on his debut album, under Sony-BMG.

## ROUNDUP

### TV magazine show

"E-CONNECT," a television magazine-travel-talk show, will be launched today on ABC 5.

Produced by OneMedia, the program features news from the telecommunications, marketing, operations, finance, media production and entertainment industries.

It weaves together uplifting stories that provide both content and solutions.

Earl Beja hosts the show, which airs every Sunday, 11-11:30 a.m.

### Excellence awards

Cartoon Network presents a bigger Cartoon Network Awards of Excellence 2007, after opening singing, dancing and wild card categories to individuals and teams.

The call was sent out to talented youths from Metro Manila, aged 10 to 16.

During the open audition, the judges selected three finalists for each category. They will compete for the top spot at the Awards Ceremony on Nov. 29.

For details, tune in to Cartoon Network or log on to www.cartoonnetwork.com.ph.

SkyCable viewers can also celebrate excellence with the Toon Awards. From tomorrow till Nov. 11, viewers can tune in to Cartoon Network to find out which Toon star is being awarded on that day for the chance to win prizes.

Throughout North Luzon, Victory Liner can go the distance with Sun!

**"With more than 50% savings on our phone bills, Sun helps us cover any rise in fuel and toll charges."**

*Marivic Del Pilar, Treasury & Marketing Manager of Victory Liner*

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All field and line supervisors use Sun Cellular to monitor the Victory Liner bus fleet. Even their drivers and conductors now use Sun Cellular.

"In the event of accidents, traffic or floods, they contact the head office in Manila, wherever in North Luzon they may be," says Marivic. Decision-making and reaction time is cut, and communication among the eight major terminals and sub-terminals in North Luzon is more efficient.

After 62 years of being in business, Victory Liner is bound for more success. And with Sun Cellular ensuring fast communication, they will definitely continue to go places.

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## GALLERIA

1 STARDUST • THX
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

2 KNOCKED UP
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 HIGHLANDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 10:00AM

7 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 indieSine: TUKSO 1:00 2:45
STILL LIFE 4:30 6:45 9:00

9 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 MR. WOODCOCK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

## NOW SHOWING

Claire de Castro  Ron Capinding

Still Life

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OCTOBER 17 to 23 MTRCB Rating: PG13

## ERMITA

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

2 STARDUST
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 KNOCKED UP
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 MR WOODCOCK
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

6 HIGHLANDER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

## METRO EAST

1 KNOCKED UP
1:00 3:35 6:15 9:00

2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 HIGHLANDER
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

5 MR. WOODCOCK
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

6 STARDUST
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00

7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 2:00 4:30 6:40 9:00

8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

## NOVALICHES

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 KNOCKED UP
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## PIONEER

1 MR. WOODCOCK
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

2 HIGHLANDER
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

4 KNOCKED UP
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

## STA. ROSA

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 STARDUST
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 KNOCKED UP
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

## LIPA

1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 THE HOST

## DASMARINAS

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 KNOCKED UP
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## IMUS

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 APAT APAT DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

## ANGELES

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 DECEMBER BOYS / THE SEEKER
4 KNOCKED UP

## TARLAC

1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 DON'T LOOK BACK
3 SHOOT 'EM UP

## STARMILLS

1 KNOCKED UP
2 STARDUST
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

## BACOLOD

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
5 THE HOST
6 indieSine: TUKSO

## ILOILO

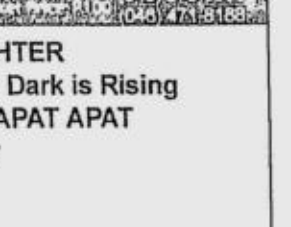
1 DAYWATCH
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 THE HOST
5 WEDDING DAZE
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

*a film by Dennis Marasigan*

*CINEMALAYA 2007 Winner - Best Screenplay*

The mysterious death of a young village lass leads to the investigation of those who knew her and what they may have to gain from her death. Told from the perspectives of the different characters, the film examines how one's view may lead to varying interpretations of the same incidents.

showing at Robinsons Movieworld OCTOBER 17 to 23




# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

**CINEMA**

1 CINE EUROPA
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 KNOCKED UP
4 STARDUST
5 MR. WOODCOCK

**CINEMA 2000**

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 HIGHLANDER -V
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 KNOCKED UP

**stармall**

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 KNOCKED UP
4 STURDUST
5

**metropolis star cinema**

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8804265, 6432894

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 KNOCKED UP

**THEATRES**

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 LAST LEGION
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

**PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC**

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel: (042) 660-527*

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 KNOCKED UP
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
5 HIGHLANDER -V
6 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
7 STURDUST
8 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
9 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER

**Blue Wave**

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HIGHLANDER
4 RESERVED

**SUPER CINERAMA**

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
5 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

**MARKETPLACE**

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
4 RESERVED

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

**Marasgana CINEMA**

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KNOCKED UP

**Center Mall Cinema**

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING

**Jade Cinema**

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4 KNOCKED UP

**Centre Plaza Cinema**

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 UNDERDOG

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 STURDUST
4 MR WOODCOCK

**CINEMA 2000**

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER : DARK IS RISING
3 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
4

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
2 HOST
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE / NANCY DREW

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320

1 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT
3 HOST

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 DAY WATCH
2 APAT DAPAT , DAPAT APAT

**Lianas Cinema**
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 ONE PERCENT FULL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 HIRAM
4 CHUCK & LARRY

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
3 THE SEEKER : THE DARK IS RISING
4 DATANG MAGDALENA
5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 NO RESERVATION
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 HOST
KAPAG ANG PALAY MAY BUMAYO

**Berma Cinema**
(Daclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 AKO LANG SA LANGIT
2 ONE PERCENT FULL

PHILIP

# ENTERT

## *Sam and Piolo ad*

• *Keysa mag-*react *sa sinulat ni Ate* Lolit...Piolo *nagbuklat ng Bibliya.* (Attaboy.)

### Take it from...

• *Payo ni* Willie Revillame *kay* John Lloyd Cruz: *"Dapat* chickboy *ka rin!"*

• Sex life *ni* Willie *apektado;* small intestine *may butas.*

• Willie, *nakakatagal kahit walang* sex life! (Old age?)

• Willie *nadismaya sa pag-pasok ni* Mariel *sa* PBB House.

### No, never

• Claudine Barretto not moving to GMA 7.

• *Mag-aampon na lang ulit:* Claudine *'di na* feel *magka-anak.*

• *Bagong* commercial *ni* Gretchen Barretto, banned *sa mga* news programs.

•
Cruz

•
tero

### Dire

•
*tong-*
*tor!*

•
Joyce
*nam*

# POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

DOLBY DIGITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE R13 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20 | STARDUST G 12:00,2:35,5:10, 7:45,10:20 | KNOCKED UP R18 11:30,2:10,4:50, 7:30,10:10 |
| MR.WOODCOCK PG13 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10 | NO RESERVATIONS G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50 | THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30 |

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT MALL and Kiddie-Party.com present

# GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1: KNOCKED UP 11:15 , 2:10 , 5:00 7:50 , 10:35 R-18

CINEMA 2: HIGHLANDER 12:05 , 2:40 , 5:15 7:50 , 10:25

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

...a dinetainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3: STARDUST 11:00 , 1:55 , 4:50 7:45 , 10:35 GP

CINEMA 4: MR. WOODCOCK 11:15 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35

CINEMA 5: THE SEEKER 10:30 , 12:50, 3:10 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722-4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 18 & 19 , 2007 | Jericho Rosales | 8:00 PM |
| October 25 , 2007 | Ogie Alcasid | 8:00 PM |
| October 27 , 2007 | Jonathan Badon | 8:00 PM |

T·E·A·T·R·O

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct. 17 , 24 & 31 | Carrudo Classico | 8:00 PM |
| October 26, 2007 | John Lesaca | 8:00 PM |

FOR INQUIRIES, PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Eastwood City

brings you

Good Housekeeping

THE NO 1 FAMILY & HOME MAGAZINE

# COOKING DEMO

Witness the transformation of time-honored family recipes into extraordinary dishes!

October 21, 2007 / 1:00 - 5:30pm

Eastwood Central Plaza

FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City

Tel: 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EW

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call: 687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 KNOCKED UP
2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10
R-18

3 THE SEEKER
1:15, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
GP

5 STARDUST
2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
G

4 MR. WOODCOCK
3:15, 5:40, 8:05,10:40
PG-13

## infinitum

From page F4

Paolo Bediones, Abigail confirm romance.

Aubrey Miles, Troy Monving together.

**k, direk!**

Melanie Marquez, *gusgusto nang maging direk-*

John Lapuz, *nilait si Direk* Bernal! (*E ano?* Date *n ni direk si* Piolo *sa* Josh Groban concert.)

**Accept *na***

• *Anak sa labas ni* Bong, *tanggap na ni* Lani Mercado.

• Yasmien Kurdi *hinimatay! Buntis nga ba?*

• Yasmien starving herself to lose weight.

• Friendship *nina* Rufa Mae *at* Kris Aquino, *sira na?*

• Rufa Mae *payag maging* water girl *sa* concert *ng* ex-BF.

• Rufa Mae Quinto *may offer sa* Hollywood. (Take it.)

• Autobiography *ni* Dolphy *gagawin ni* Eric Quizon.

• Sex video *raw ng* PBB celeb edition 2 housemate, *ikakalat na sa mga bangketa. Kasama ang isa sa* Baywalk Bodies?

• Ruffa *naiyak kay* Josh Groban. (*Kami rin. Di kasi kinanta ang* "You're Still You.")

## Game Girls named...

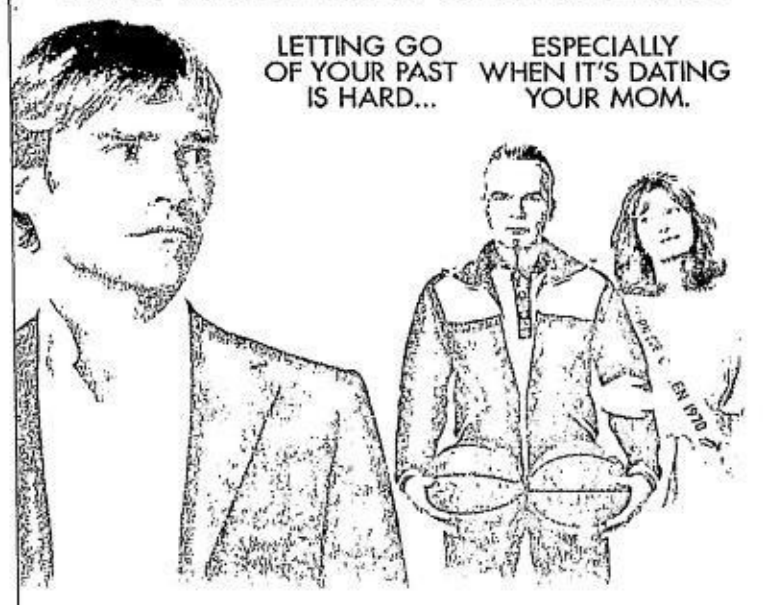
From page F1

Fowler, Jose Reprado and Doren Nobles—face the last challenge, yet another song-and-dance number ... and a press conference.

Presented by Sony BMG and Asian Media Development Group, Southeast Asian publisher of the online game Lineage 2, the search combines a talent contest and a beauty tilt.

Awaiting the winners are a recording contract with Sony BMG Music Entertainment, a talent management contract and an endorsement deal worth P100,000.

Says jury member Vic Valenciano, Sony BMG A&R director: "We want team players whose voices blend and whose dance moves are synchronized."

MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or guardian
NOW SHOWING
The FUNNIEST MOVIE of the YEAR!
LAUGH 'TILL YOU DROP!
From the Producers of "THE WEDDING CRASHERS"


SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT BILLY BOB THORNTON AND SUSAN SARANDON
MR. WOODCOCK

"UNREST"
HUNDREDS OF PATIENTS DIE IN HOSPITALS EVERYDAY...
NOT ALL REMAIN DEAD!

As a first-year medical student, Alison Blanchard (*Corri English*) discovers that death may not be as final as she once believed when the spirit of the cadaver assigned to her in Gross Anatomy class attempts to resolve some unfinished business in the mortal realm. When the sheet is drawn back and the cadaver is revealed, the nervous student suddenly senses a powerful energy and collapses to the floor, unconscious.

Upon relaying her strange experience to her skeptical instructor, Dr. Blackwell (*Derrick O'Connor*), Alison finds her strange malaise immediately written off as the "first year jitters."

When Alison's friend is discovered dead in a basement corridor and the rising body count begins to appear strangely connected with her investigation into the cadaver's fate, the frightened medical student must face her own mortality to put the mystery, and the murderous spirit, to rest.

Beautiful and sexy *Corri English* plays the Anatomy student haunted by a murderous spirit in "UNREST".

*"Philosophically, the film is about life and appreciation for it - especially by showing proper respect to the dead. In the Aztec culture, tens of thousands of people were willingly sacrificed to ensure bountiful harvests for their people. Yet there is a reverence within the Native American cultures towards the dead."* says "UNREST" director Jason Todd Ipson.

*"Physicians have the highest access to the dead of any other professional group, yet behind closed doors there is not a ton of reverence I believe because it is tough for a doctor to do the job that is expected of them if they do not distance themselves from death and what it means."* he continues.

"UNREST" creeps into theaters October 24. ADVT.

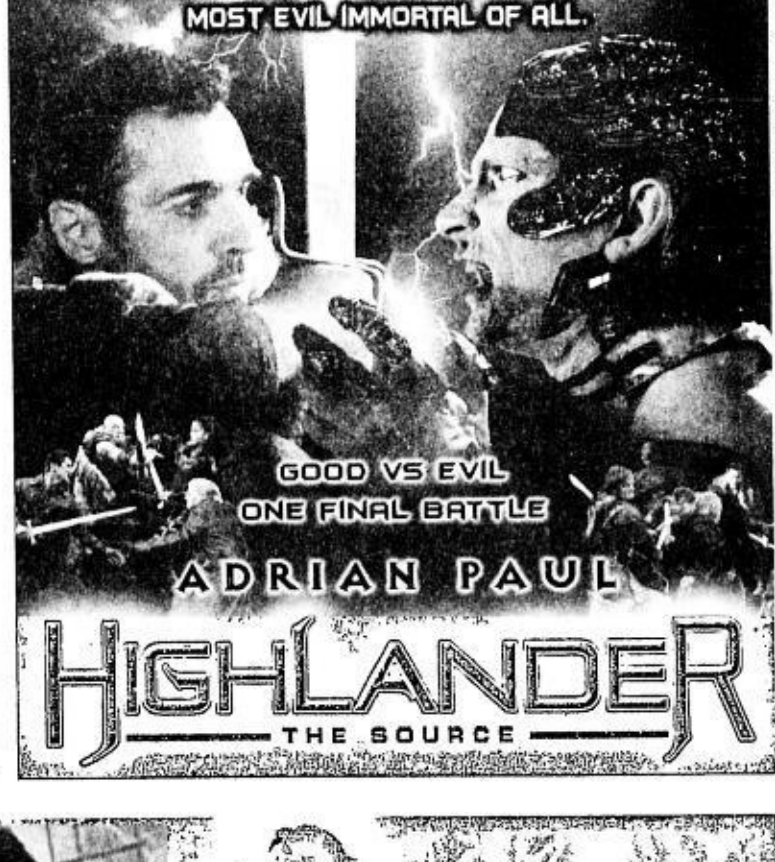
MTRCB PG-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
MUMULTUHIN KAYO SA OCT.24
SHOCKING but REAL!
Hundreds of Patients Die in Hospitals Everyday... Not All Remain *DEAD*.

UNREST

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
DAPAT MAG-ENJOY.
DAPAT KALIMUTAN ANG PROBLEMA.
DAPAT MONG PANOORIN.
KAHIT APAT NA BESES AY SULIT PA RIN!
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo
Pokwang
Candy Pangilinan

Also Starring JOHN LAPUS DJ DURAND DICK ISRAEL MARISSA DELGADO CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ KIRAY YINCT SALDANA CHESTER NOLLEDO ANDREW SCHIMMER KIAN KAZEMI ASHLEY GRUENBERG VICE GANDA RICHARD EVERLY
Directed by WENN V. DERAMAS
NO. 1 NA SA PATAWA, NO. 1 PA SA TAKILYA!

MTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
NOW SHOWING
CHAPTER 1: From the Highlands of Scotland to the streets of New York, he fought his first battle and won.
CHAPTER 2: With the help of his powerful mentor, he saved the world from evil.
CHAPTER 3: He is faced with an enemy from the past whose sole purpose is to eliminate him and become the only immortal.

NOW, HE WILL TAKE ON THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST EVIL IMMORTAL OF ALL.


ADRIAN PAUL
HIGHLANDER
THE SOURCE

CLAIRE DANES WITH MICHELLE PFEIFFER AND ROBERT DE NIRO
CHARLIE COX SIENNA MILLER RICKY GERVAIS PETER O'TOOLE
THE FAIRY TALE THAT WON'T BEHAVE.
STARDUST
PROXIMAMENTE
2ND WEEK

Visit and be enlightened by the
Ayala CINEMAS
EXHIBIT ON SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS
by Ayala Land, Inc. and WWF Philippines
at the TriNoma Cinema Lobby from October 17 - 23.

Leonardo DiCaprio presents
The 11th Hour
NOW SHOWING AT TRINOMA CINEMAS
Watch out for "The 11th Hour" at the following Ayala Malls Cinemas:
October 24 - 30 at Alabang Town Center
October 31 - November 6 at Market! Market!
MTRCB Rating General Audience (G)
TriNoma
AyalaLand BENEFICIAL WWF

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES the City of Makati
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER

Directed by
Baby Barredo and Joy Virata
August 11 - December 13, 2007
Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1,
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
For inquiries call 887-0710
or 891-9999
"CINDERELLA KIDS" is presented through a special arrangement with MTI's Kids Collection
923 JOEY

Experience the chilling world of terror that is Ayala Malls Cinemas
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
FRIGHT FEST
October 26 - November 4, 2007
Glorietta 4 Cinemas
WATCH 10 FILMS TO DIE FOR FROM THE MASTERS OF THE MACABRE

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
THE BIRD
REAR WINDOW
SHADOW OF A DOUBT
THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
JOHN CARPENTER'S
VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED
THE THING
WES CRAVEN'S
VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN
THE SERPENT & THE RAINBOW
ALSO FEATURING
DEAD SILENCE
TREMORS 4: THE LEGEND BEGINS
FOR SCREENING SCHEDULES, PLS. CALL 752-7880 OR 729-777.
VISIT WWW.SURESEATS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION
MagnaVision
glorietta

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
PIERCE BROSNAN
007
VS
GERARD BUTLER
300
AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE
AN UNSUSPECTING HUSBAND
AN OBSESSIVE LOVER
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
ONE HEAVENLY ENCOUNTER CAN BRING A LIFETIME OF HELL.
OPENS OCTOBER 24
VIVA




# Sam and Piolo ad infinitum

**By the Inquirer and Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff**

GMA 7's "STARTALK" SHOW LOLIT Solis insists she spotted Kapamilya stars **Piolo Pascual** and **Sam Milby** at the poolside of a five-star hotel. ABS-CBN declined to issue a statement, and a friend of the two guys says Piolo was in a pictorial with **Angel Locsin** for a watch brand, while Sam was in a hair salon at the time. Guess who stands to gain the most from a confirmation of the persistent rumors? Tell (e-mail) us what you think!

**RUSHES SUNDAY**

**THE RUMOR started with this snap, which turned out to be digitally altered.**

### Love for show

This pretty lass is being linked with her partner on a TV show, but they're really not a couple. What clued us in? A non-show biz guy's snapshot rests on her bedside table.

### Oedipal complexity

**Kristine Hermosa** was allegedly sighted in Greenbelt with **Oyo Sotto**. What makes this "romance" iffy, an observer says, is that Kristine plays Oyo Boy's mom in the "Enteng Kabisote" franchise. That's much too Oedipal for a Christmas movie. Then again, Oyo was previously linked with older actress **Bing Loyzaga**, villainess in the same fantasy flicks.

### Free again

**Jaclyn Jose**, original queen of indie movies, is now independent in real life, too. She recently parted ways with her musician-boyfriend, father of her second son.

### Bourne, not Bond

TOKYO—**Matt Damon** said Thursday he was open to another sequel of his Jason Bourne spy series but categorically declined a showdown with James Bond, now played by British actor **Daniel Craig**. Damon explained: "He keeps himself in very good shape. I would like to avoid any confrontation with Daniel Craig if I can." *AFP*

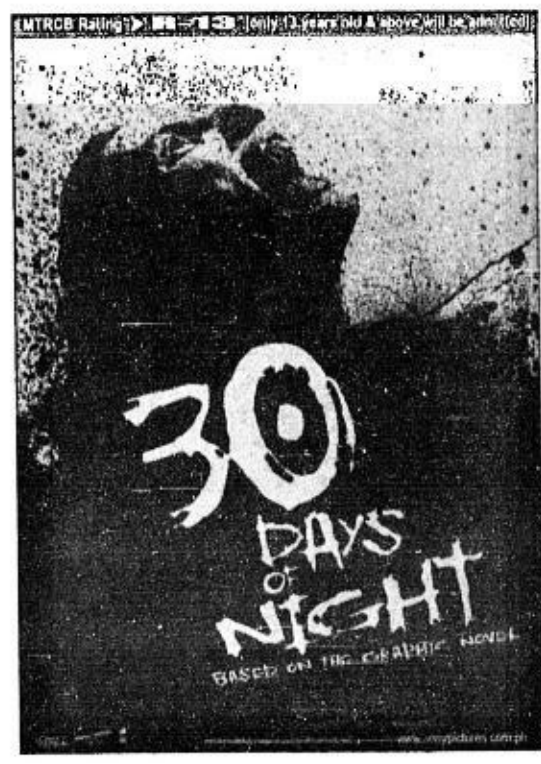
### Coppola on Pacino

NEW YORK—Everyone wants to work with **Al Pacino**, **Robert De Niro** and **Jack Nicholson**—except **Francis Ford Coppola**, who directed Pacino and De Niro in "The Godfather" trilogy. The 68-year-old filmmaker tells GQ magazine in its November issue, on newsstands Tuesday: "I don't know what any of them want anymore." *AP*

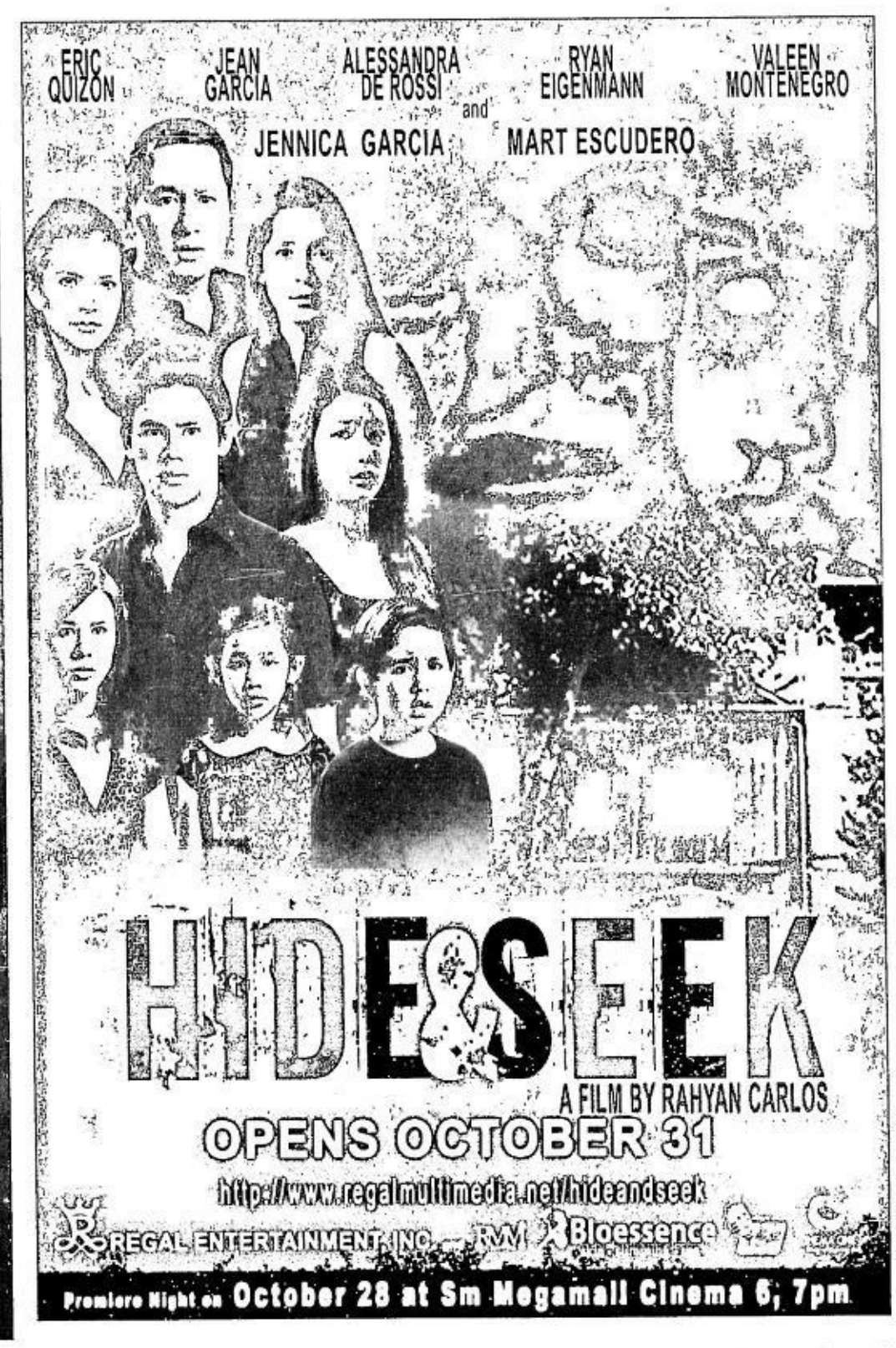
### Deborah Kerr, 86

LONDON—Scottish-born actress **Deborah Kerr**, the graceful star who romped in the surf with **Burt Lancaster** in "From Here to Eternity" and danced with **Yul Brynner** in "The King and I," has died at age 86.

Her agent **Anne Hutton** said she died on Tuesday in Suffolk, England: "Her family was with her. She had suffered from Parkinson's disease for some time and... she just slipped away." *Reuters*

*Fright Season Movie Event!*
**Vampires roam in 30 days of darkness in horror movie starring hot Josh Hartnett**
*For centuries, vampires have stayed in the dark, forced to hide each morning or else be destroyed by the sun's burning power.*
*Blood-thirsty, flesh-eating vampires viciously attack Barrow, Alaska, a remote town plunged into 30 days of darkness in winter, bringing its hapless residents to its knees. How do they survive till daylight finally comes?*
*Hot Hollywood actor and recent Philippines visitor Josh Hartnett stars as the embattled Sheriff Eben in 30 DAYS OF NIGHT, based on the groundbreaking graphic novel by Steve Niles and Ben Templesmith.*
*Bring a date or the barkada to a theatre near you!*
OPENS OCTOBER 31!



A FILM BY RAHYAN CARLOS
OPENS OCTOBER 31
http://www.regalmultimedia.net/hideandseek
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. RVM Bloessence
Premiere Night on October 28 at Sm Megamall Cinema 6, 7pm


### Top of the tabloids

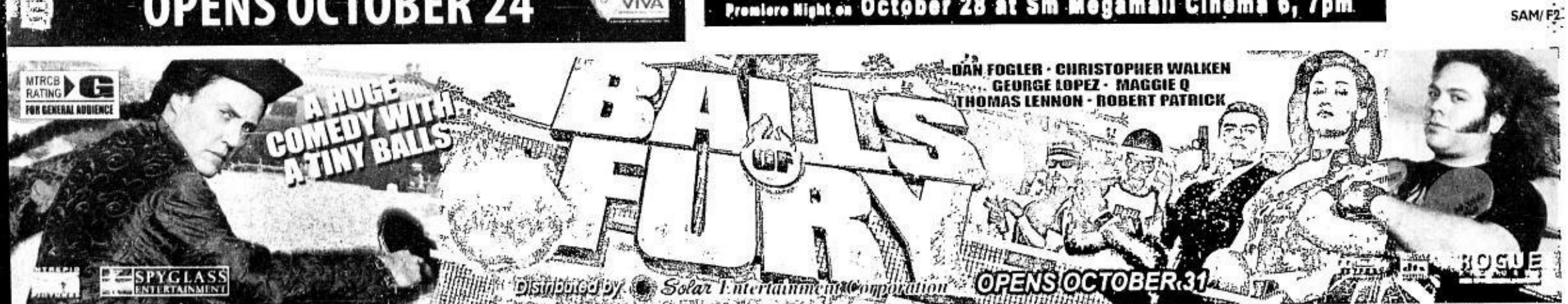
The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

- **Kuh Ledesma** *naimbyerna sa* "Celebrity Duets." (Ha?)
- Kuh *nainsulto, ka-duet natalo.* (Ah.)
- *Kahit nagdi-deny...* "I miss you..." text *ni* **Ara Mina** *kay* **Manny Pacquiao**, *huli ni* **Jinkee.** (*Nakup.*)
- **John Estrada** *at* **Aljon Jimenez**, *muntik nang mag-pang-abot!* (*Okey lang.*)
- **Ethel Booba** *may bagong lalaki.* (Ho-hum.)
- *Nagplano na para mapaalis ni Kuya*...Ethel Booba, *magsusuot ng* see-thru *na* nighties *sa loob ng* PBB House: (Good night.)
- **Mike Tan** *mabenta sa bading.*
- *Mga bading nababaliw sa* 3 Zaido *ng* GMA 7. (Could be the... costumes.)

### Stray tongues

- Piolo Pascual *at* Sam Milby, *nahuling nagbubulungan sa* coffee shop *ng* hotel.
- Piolo *at* Sam, *huling huling naglalampungan.* (*Bulong-lampungan!*)
- *Kung magdedemanda sina* Piolo at Sam...Lolit Solis *handang panindigan sa korte ang kanyang nakita.*
- Lolit: *"Wala akong sinabing naglalaplapan sina* Piolo *at* Sam...*pero nanginig ang tuhod ko nang makita ko sila."*
- Lolit, *muntik nang madapa nang makita si* Piolo *na parang dinilaan ang tenga ni Sam?!* (*Ay.*)
- *Pagsasama nina* Piolo *at* Sam *sa* hotel, *nilagyan lang ni* Lolit *ng malisya!*
- Lolit: *"Ano naman ang mapapala ko kung sisiraan ko sina* Piolo *at* Sam?"

SAM/ F2

Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
OPENS OCTOBER 31

ANGEL Aquino and Sid Lucero in "Donsol," which has already won awards elsewhere.

# R film joins controversial entries in this year's Oscars

LOS ANGELES—A COLLEAGUE teased us that somehow we made the usually poised and collected **Glenn Close** blush.

We'll blame **Michael Douglas**—or let him take the credit. When Michael learned in a recent press con that we were going to interview next his "Fatal Attraction" co-star Glenn Close, he suggested that we ask her how many servings of margarita she had before she did that famous steamy elevator scene with him. Some have written that it is the best (and sexiest) elevator scene in cinema history.

So we asked Glenn the question the minute she sat down for a press con. She blushed, laughed, then replied, "A whole pitcher. That's true. **Tommy Saccio**, the prop guy, gave the pitcher to me. Yes (laughter). He's evil."

Since we were interviewing Glenn about her TV series, "Damages," where she plays a lawyer, a great addition to her resumé of great women characters, she was asked about **Hillary Clinton**'s run to become the first female US President.

## Women power

"We're behind the rest of the world," she answered. "Many countries have had women Prime Ministers or women Presidents. It's about time that this country opened up for women. We'll be better for it. Whether Hillary will win, I don't know but it's certainly valid to include women in that choice."

And since the actress has perfected that intimidating look in playing some of these assertive characters, are some people scared when they meet her? "No," she said with a laugh. "It's funny—somebody told me that **Bette Davis** was asked why she played so many nasty women. Her answer was, 'Because I'm not.' I am not intimidating. I can be fierce but I'm probably fiercer and tougher on myself than I am on anybody."

"My daughter is so much fiercer than I am," she said of her daughter, **Annie Maude Starke**, who is in college. "When she was little, she gave the look when we were in the airport and stuff. She'd always know if some people have recognized me and if they were coming up to me. She gave them the look (laughter). She was my protector."

The award-winning actress added, "In New York [where she lives], I walk around like a bag lady. Nobody cares (laughter). They don't seem intimidated by me at all. I go and walk my dogs in the park. I have nice conversations with people. No problem." No disguises? "I am not in disguise," she stated. "It's silly."

## Oscar bets

The Philippines' "Donsol," directed by **Adolfo Alix, Jr.**, would have been up against Ang Lee's "Lust, Caution" in the foreign language film category of the 80th Academy Awards. But the Academy ruled that there wasn't enough Taiwanese involvement in the acclaimed film for it to be eligible as Taiwan's entry.

So Ang's Golden Lion winner for Best Picture in last month's Venice Film Festival had to give way to "Island Etude" by **Chen Huai-En** as Taiwan's entry. "Donsol" and "Island Etude" were among the 63 entries recently named by Academy President **Sid Ganis** as contenders for best foreign film. Don't weep for "Lust, Caution," though. The movie, which made news for its nude sex scenes, will probably earn nods in other categories come awards season time.

"Donsol," which stars **Sid Lucero** and **Angel Aquino**, won awards in the Fort Lauderdale (Florida) International Film Festival and the Asian Marine Film Festival in Japan. For her performance in the love story set in Donsol, Sorsogon, where whale sharks abound, Angel bagged the Best Actress honors in the 2006 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. Eli Barce took home the Best Cinematography Award.

## Notable entries

Other noteworthy entries, with their countries and directors listed, which triumphed in Cannes last May: "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days" (Romania), **Cristian Mungiu-Palme d'Or**; "Persepolis" (France), **Marjane Satrapi** and **Vincent Paronnaud** and "Silent Light" (Mexico), **Carlos Reygadas**, which both tied for the Jury Prize; and "Secret Sunshine" (Korea), **Chang-dong Lee**, its lead, **Jeon Do-yeon**, won the Best Actress plum.

Also notable are "Days of Darkness" (Canada), **Denys Arcand**, whose "The Barbarian Invasions" won the Oscar in this category in 2004; "Katyn" (Poland), **Andrzej Wajda**, winner of an honorary Oscar in 2000 for his body of work; "Padre Nuestro" (Chile), **Rodrigo Sepulveda**; "The Edge of Heaven" (Germany), **Fatih Akin**; "Exiled" (Hong Kong), **Johnnie To**; "The Unknown" (Italy), **Giuseppe Tornatore**; "The Orphanage" (Spain) **J.A. Bayona**; and "You, the Living" (Sweden), Roy Andersson.

Variety reports that controversies are hounding some of the entries.

Israel was allowed by the Academy to submit "Beaufort" instead of "The Band's Visit," which was disqualified because majority of its dialogue is in English.

In India, **Bhavna Talwar**, the director of a film which lost out to "Eklavya—The Royal Guard" as that country's entry, filed a lawsuit. The filmmaker accused the selection committee of conflict of interest since one of its members edited "Eklavya." She also alleged that two other members were close to that entry's director, **Vidhu Vinod Chopra**. As we write this, news reports say Bhavna dropped her legal challenge "because the court hearings dragged on too long—rendering the petition pointless."

In the UK, producer **Chris Young** quit from BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) in protest because that organization did not send his "Searchd: the Inaccessible Pinnacle" as the country's entry. Can you believe that the UK is not in the Oscar race in this category? And that BAFTA decided there was no British film good enough as this year's entry?

Even Azerbaijan and Ireland submitted entries for the first time this year. The record field of 63 entries will be whittled down to five when the nominations for the 80th Academy Awards are announced in January next year.

## Good review

**Jim Libiran**'s "Tribu," which won the Best Picture award in the 3rd Philippine Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, got a very favorable review in Variety.

Critic **Richard Kuipers** hailed the film, which stars **Karl Eigger Balingit**, O.G. Sacred, **Shielbert Manuel** and **Lloyd Labastida**, as "utterly and tragically convincing." That's another piece of good news for Jim, who wrote, directed and produced the film, and his executive producers **Gene Cajayon** (the Fil-Am director of "The Debut," who is in the Philippines), **Mitchelle Moreno** and **Diomedes Dillague.**

Here are excerpts of the review: "…**Helmer Jim Libiran**'s debut feature has the raw power to make its own distinct mark. Winner of the top prize at Cinemalaya, the ultra-realistic pic should have a lengthy fest life and could interest specialized broadcasters. In lieu of formal domestic distribution, Libiran plans to take the film on the road himself.

"Frantic opening posits 10-year-old **Ebet (Karl Eigger Balingit)** as voiceover narrator and observer of life in the notorious Tondo slum, a place where parents regularly outlive their children. As he puts it, 'Most people here are bums, and they're bums because they're poor.' First seen watching a frenzied street march honoring the district's patron saint, the boy keeps company with the Thugz Angels gang and casually witnesses their everyday drug use and brutal initiation rituals.

## Unforgettable images

"Story line follows a straightforward path as the Thugz Angels are mistakenly blamed for the murder of a rival, and leader Makoy (O.G. Sacred) musters forces for an all-out warfare. En route to the fiery finale, auds bear witness to an unrelenting depiction of how the grinding cycle of poverty and severely dysfunctional family life draws children into crime.

"Hard to forget are images of a betrayed wife attacking her husband with a knife in public and kids not much older than Ebet wandering the streets with guns. Cast with real members of half a dozen local gangs, pic is utterly and tragically convincing.

"Powered by hip-hop made up on the spot—too much for non-fans of the musical form—the film moves swiftly to a conclusion that will perhaps disappoint those insisting on optimistic outcomes, but one that is entirely appropriate and consistent with what's come before.

"Lensed largely at night with available light sources, pic's visuals are crisp and sound quality is crystal-clear in challenging locations. Rest of tech work is solid."

*E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.*

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*Ruben V. Nepales*

THE ACTRESS figures in a steamy elevator scene.

## …and how we made Glenn Close blush

# *Clapton writes autobiography*

NEW YORK—CLAPTON IS Good.

The second "o" is critical. Back in the 1960s, when London graffiti proclaimed "Clapton is God," the brilliant British guitarist was descending into a personal hell. Eric Clapton traded a heroin addiction for alcoholism, suffered disastrous love affairs, contemplated suicide armed with a bottle of vodka, a gram of blow and a shotgun.

He has long since surrendered to a higher power; at 62, Clapton has 20 years of sobriety, a happy marriage and three young daughters. It's a good time to consider an extraordinary life, as the rock Hall of Famer does with "Clapton: The Autobiography."

Unlike many rock star efforts, this one includes no Zeppelinesque tales of debauched groupies or ghostwritten revisions of musical and personal history. Clapton delivers a brutally honest and unsparing look at his life, near-death and recovery, along with tales from an unparalleled music career.

## Role models

Initially, Clapton planned to sit down for a series of interviews about his life, leaving a collaborator to handle the tweaking and organization. But a perusal of the first manuscript led the guitarist to get more hands-on.

"I realized this was not what I wanted to do," Clapton says. "So I rewrote that, and thought, 'I'll have to write this myself.'"

Clapton's six-string inspiration, Robert Johnson, sang of a single hellhound on his trail; Clapton had a whole pack nipping at his heels until a second trip through rehab changed his life in 1987. Johnson was dead by 27, and there was a time when Clapton was convinced his life wouldn't last much beyond that.

He says of Johnson and other legendary bluesmen: "That is… a built-in fantasy that goes along with addiction, a way of justifying my need to get stoned. That's what my heroes did.'"

Through it all, Clapton created an indelible musical legacy that spanned genres while inspiring generations. The autobiography's chapter titles provide a roadmap:

"The Yardbirds."

"Cream."

"Blind Faith."

"Derek and the Dominos."

Clapton, from his early days with the John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, quickly assumed a position in the center of the music universe. He hung out with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, jammed with Muddy Waters and Duane Allman.

Clapton's book is not totally devoid of tabloid-worthy material. He recounts how Mick Jagger once stole his girlfriend, an Italian model, setting off homicidal fantasies in the late '80s.

"I went on a rampage, mentally," he recalls. "I wanted to kill him—the kind of mad [fantasy] a drunk in recovery can have."

He also delves into his romance with Pattie Boyd, after her split with Beatle George Harrison. Their star-crossed affair made her the muse for some of Clapton's most memorable songs, including "Layla" and "Wonderful Tonight," before the romance gave way to recriminations.

Clapton recalled a recent Sunday morning trip to his local grocery store, where Boyd's new memoir, "Wonderful Tonight," was excerpted in the British press. The page one headline read: "Eric Clapton's drinking killed my marriage."

"I'm in the local shop," he said, "and I'm thinking, 'Are the neighbors watching me read?'"

## Survival

These days, Clapton remains involved with the Crossroads treatment center that he founded nearly a decade ago in Antigua—a huge benefit concert was held this past summer. He plans to cut back on live shows, but has no retirement plans.

"I can't stop touring, and I won't," he says emphatically. "I have a responsibility to play for people."

Clapton has seen friends and colleagues die, from Jimi Hendrix to George Harrison, from Duane Allman to Bob Marley, from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Muddy Waters. How did he manage to survive?

"I've always assumed it was really because I hadn't gotten my act together. I still don't feel like I've got it right. I'm still working on my sound… still trying to get the right amp." *Larry Shane, AP*

"SLOWHAND" in his younger, reckless years.

# Good

MANY SHOW BIZ DENIZE
being criticized for being
tive influence on young
It's a relief to see that th
tainment world offers son
role models to balance the
ry equation.

Many people admire inter
musician **Toti Fuentes** for re
give up his decade-long figh
his daunting case of cancer.

Even more admirably, he c
to summon up enough stren
abiding love for music to still
in special shows from time to

Indeed, the US-based. n
who's worked with top Ameri
for many years, is due to
here again, in a special c
show with **Anna Fegi** at M
Oct. 27.

How does he do it? Perfor
quires a great expense of en
artistic passion, while cancer
need all the strength they ca
just to fight their grave illness

## Love

How can somebody like Toti
at the same time?

We've seen Toti perform
obvious pain, and we can sh
it's really his love for music th
him going, while some othe
victims give up the fight.

So, in our view, Toti Fue
great role model for people w
to contend with all sorts o
problems of their own. Like
should never give up, to
painful though the struggle n

## Hero

Another "medical hero" in t
**Gary Valenciano**, who's ha
with his serious case of juve
betes for many years. Des
treacherous ailment, Ga
zoomed up to the top of th
tainment world—and stay
for two decades, a feat that
difficult even for a disease-
former.

## Mega student

In the area of education,
model is **Sharon Cuneta**
spite her already being the


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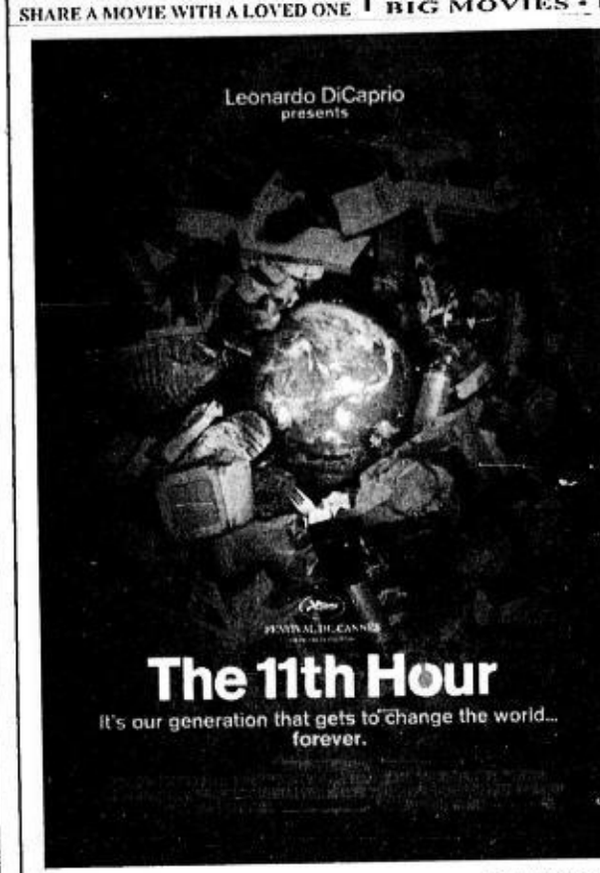


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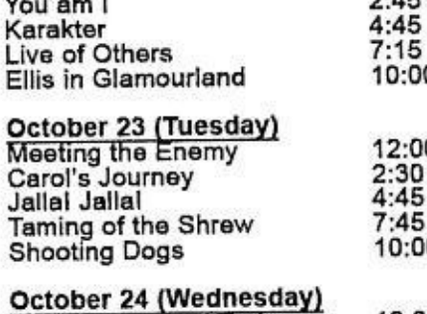
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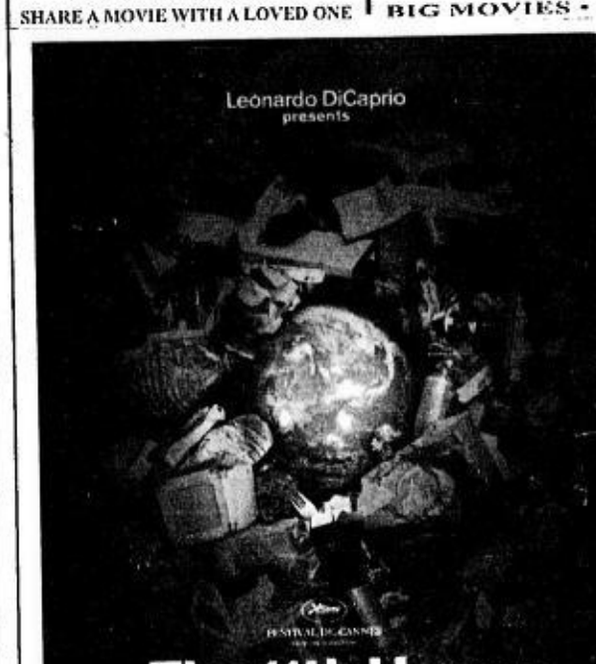


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# The 11th Hour

THE 11TH HOUR describes the last moment when change is possible. The film explores how humanity has arrived at this moment: how we live, how we impact the Earth's ecosystems, and what we can do to change our course. Also, the film features dialogues with experts from all over the world, in addition to over 50 leading scientists, thinkers and leaders who present the facts and discuss the most important issues that face our planet.

Narrated and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio
Written and directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners

NOW SHOWING AT MALL OF ASIA
Screening Schedules:
October 24 (Wednesday) at Megamall
October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila
November 7 (Wednesday) at Sta. Mesa

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T-REX 3D Admission Price: P250 3:00 PM
NASCAR Admission Price: P200 1:30 PM • 4:30 PM
1 STARDUST
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 11TH HOUR/CARTOON NETWORK
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
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EVENING
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
7 STARDUST
8 MR. WOODCOCK
9 HIGHLANDER V
10 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11 NO RESERVATIONS/CARTOON NETWORK
12 KUNG FU FIGHTER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MR. WOODCOCK
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/CARTOON NETWORK
6 STARDUST
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 NO RESERVATIONS
10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
11 RETRIBUTION
12 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 STARDUST
2 RETRIBUTION
3 NO RESERVATIONS/CARTOON NETWORK
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
9 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 WEDDING DAZE
12 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 STARDUST
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 RESIDENT EVIL 3
6 WEDDING DAZE
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
10 NO RESERVATIONS/CARTOON NETWORK

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/CARTOON NETWORK
5 STARDUST
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 HIGHLANDER V
5 MR. WOODCOCK
6 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
7 STARDUST
8 KUNG FU FIGHTER
9 RETRIBUTION/CARTOON NETWORK

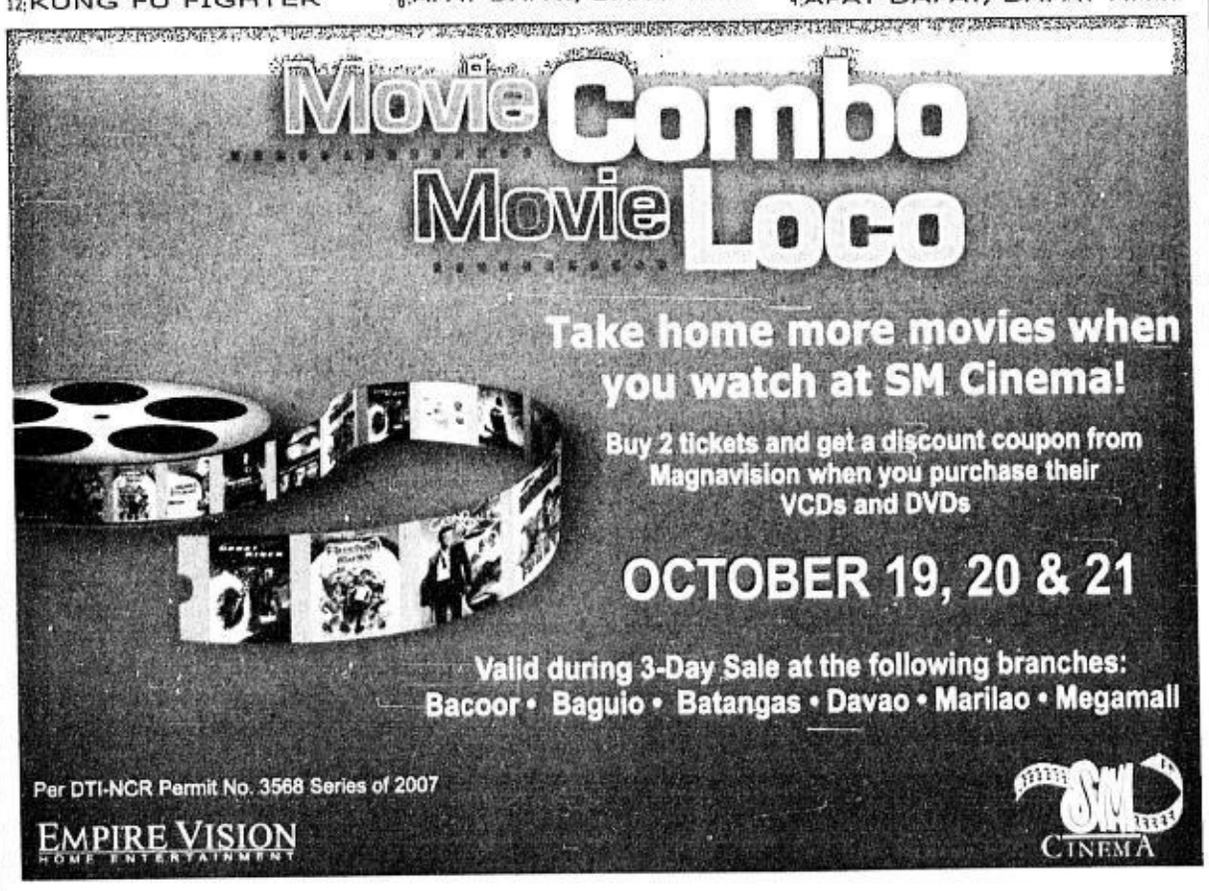
SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 STARDUST
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 RESERVED
7 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
8 RETRIBUTION
9 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/CARTOON NETWORK
10 KUNG FU FIGHTER
11 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12 MR. WOODCOCK

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 STARDUST
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 STARDUST
3 RETRIBUTION
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT




SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 STARDUST
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 RETRIBUTION
5 HIGHLANDER V
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
7 KUNG FU FIGHTER
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 NO RESERVATIONS
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
6 CARTOON NETWORK/DECEMBER BOYS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 WEDDING DAZE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 STARDUST
4 CARTOON NETWORK/DECEMBER BOYS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
6 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN/NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 NO RESERVATIONS

SM CITY BACOLOD (074)6197838-39
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 STARDUST
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
3 RETRIBUTION
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER

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1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

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SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
2 CARTOON NETWORK/I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
5 SKINWALKERS
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 BRATZ
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 SKINWALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 NO RESERVATIONS
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 WEDDING DAZE
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 DAYWATCH
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 STARDUST
2 SKINWALKERS
3 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
4 NO RESERVATIONS
5 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU/CARTOON NETWORK
6 NO RESERVATIONS
7 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
8 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 STARDUST
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

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# ENTERTA

## Good

MANY SHOW BIZ DENIZE being criticized for being tive influence on young It's a relief to see that the tainment world offers son role models to balance the ry equation.

Many people admire inter musician **Toti Fuentes** for ref give up his decade-long fight his daunting case of cancer.

Even more admirably, he c to summon up enough stren abiding love for music to still in special shows from time to

Indeed, the US-based n who's worked with top Amer for many years, is due to here again, in a special co show with **Anna Fegi** at M Oct. 27.

How does he do it? Perfor quires a great expense of en artistic passion, while cancer need all the strength they ca just to fight their grave illness

### Love

How can somebody like Toti at the same time?

We've seen Toti perform obvious pain, and we can sh it's really his love for music th him going, while some othe victims give up the fight.

So, in our view, Toti Fue great role model for people w to contend with all sorts o problems of their own. Like should never give up, tou painful though the struggle n

### Hero

Another "medical hero" in t **Gary Valenciano**, who's ha with his serious case of juve betes for many years. De treacherous ailment, G zoomed up to the top of th tainment world—and stay for two decades, a feat that v difficult even for a disease former.

### Mega student

In the area of education, model is **Sharon Cuneta** v spite her already being the n


GL

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 CINE EUROPA
2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING MTRCB GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 KNOCKED UP MTRCB R-18 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 STAR DUST MTRCB GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE MR. WOODCOCK (PG-13) 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
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cine europa
October 19 - 31
Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex
Level 6, Shangri-La Plaza

October 19 (Friday)
Summer with the Ghost 12:00 pm
The Kiss 2:00 pm
Dead Man's Hand 4:00 pm
Closely Watched Trains 6:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 8:00 pm

October 20 (Saturday)
Kalya 12:00 pm
Leap 2:15 pm
FC Virus 4:15 pm
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg 6:30 pm
La Mome 8:30 pm

October 21 (Sunday)
The Leopard 12:00 pm
Summer in Berlin 3:30 pm
Just Sex & Nothing Else 6:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 8:15 pm
You am I 9:20 pm

October 22 (Monday)
Facing Windows 12:00 pm
You am I 2:45 pm
Karakter 4:45 pm
Live of Others 7:15 pm
Ellis in Glamourland 10:00 pm

October 23 (Tuesday)
Meeting the Enemy 12:00 pm
Carol's Journey 2:30 pm
Jallal Jallal 4:45 pm
Taming of the Shrew 7:45 pm
Shooting Dogs 10:00 pm

October 24 (Wednesday)
Closely Watched Trains 12:00 pm
Fanny & Alexander 2:00 pm
The Kiss 5:30 pm
Summer with the Ghost 7:45 pm
Dead Man's Hand 9:40 pm

FREE ADMISSION
Seats on a first come first served basis.
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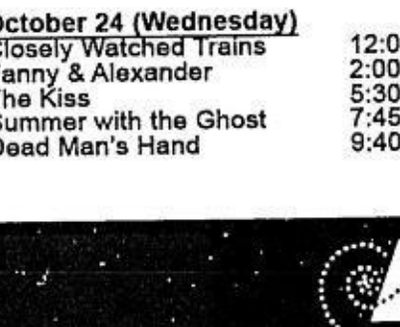

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MR WOODCOCK 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
RESIDENT EVIL : EXTINCTION 12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 7:50 / 9:50
STARDUST 12:35 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:20
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

MALL CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS
HIGHLANDER : THE SOURCE 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:50
THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING 12:10 PM / 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
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# role models in the entertainment world

VIEWFINDER

*Nestor U. Torre*

twentysomething **KC Concepcion**, has decided to go back to college via the distance education route.

Other stars would be abashed about it, or feel that they don't need a college education because they've done very well without it. But Sharon feels differently—and she's right.

We wish that her example prompts other stars and starlets to resume their studies. We also trust that other mature people will emulate Sharon by resuming or furthering their education.

## Non-stop

In terms of continuing productivity and service to society, we admire National Artist **Eddie Romero**. Already in his '80s, Eddie could very well simply rest on his many laurels, but he continues to make movies. After finishing his first digital feature, he's now working on his second!

Eddie's sterling and unstoppable example should motivate "retired" senior artists to similarly become productive again, thus enabling the nation to benefit from their extensive experience and insightful maturity.

We urge other National Artists to resume their creative output, which should be even better than the works of their youth, because experience and wisdom count a lot in the arts, as they do in life.

## Institutions

Finally, we congratulate the few people and institutions around who are doing something about preserving and restoring our cinematic patrimony. The shocking deterioration of our movies—some as recent as productions in the '80s—is one of the unrecognized scandals and crimes on the local entertainment scene.

Would you believe that quite a number of the best movies of relatively recent film masters like **Lino Brocka** and **Ishmael Bernal** are no longer extant.

What a tragedy for new generations of filmmakers and movie buffs who have been deprived of some of the key touchstones they need to attain comprehensive insights into the Filipino filmmaking experience.

Our inspiring role models here are stalwarts like the film archivists at Sampaguita Pictures, LVN, the CCP and other groups, who have done more than their share to preserve and restore our movies, despite the industry's blithe disdain.

May they inspire many others to join in the all-important mission to save our filmic patrimony for future generations.

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GLORIETTA 1 | 1 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT |
| GLORIETTA 4 | 1 KNOCKED UP | 2 MR. WOODCOCK | 3 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY | 5 RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION | 6 STARDUST | 7 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER |
| GREENBELT 1 | 1 STARDUST | | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | |
| GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING GUARANTEED SEATS | | 2 THX STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 3 PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 KNOCKED UP GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX STARDUST | | 2 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | |
| | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 MR. WOODCOCK | 5 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT | |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | 2 KNOCKED UP | 3 STARDUST | 4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME |
| MARKET! MARKET! | 1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT | | 2 STARDUST | |
| | 3 KNOCKED UP | 4 HIGHLANDER: THE SOURCE | 5 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING | |
| TRINOMA | 1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT | 2 HIGHLANDER / RESIDENT EVIL 3 | 3 STARDUST GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 MR. WOODCOCK GUARANTEED SEATS |
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ALABANG TOWN CENTER — Automatic Center
October 15 to 26; Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU — Kasalang Filipino: Bridal Fair
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MARKET! MARKET! — Globe G-Cash Anniversary Event
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TriNoma — Sesame Street Party
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# Coming to Australia on Visa 457?

AMWU

*Consider this:*

Many Australian companies are advertising for trade workers to come and work in Australia thru the Visa 457 scheme.

There have been many cases of workers from the Philippines forced to sign blank contracts, being charged exorbitant 'migration fees' by employers, and being forced to live in overpriced accommodation that leaves them with little pay. The Australian 457 Visa laws also make it difficult to change employers without having to return to your home country first.

If you are offered work in Australia, consider your contract carefully.

**Before you sign up:**

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has provided assistance to many Filipino workers who have been exploited under 457 visas. We defend the rights of our members to receive the correct pay and be provided decent working conditions.

So contact us for assistance before you leave the Philippines.

The AMWU Helpdesk phone number is +61 2 8863 7900
Email address: amwu@amwu.asn.au

*Contact Persons:*

**New South Wales (NSW):**

Paul Bastian
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Fax: +61 2 9897 2219
133 Parramatta Rd, Granville

**Queensland (QLD)**

Andrew Dettmer
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Fax: +61 7 3236 2089
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**South Australia (SA)**

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229 Greenhill Rd Dulwich

**Tasmania (TAS)**

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Fax: +61 3 6228 7503
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Fax: +61 3 9230 5786
251 Queensberry St, Carlton South

**Western Australia (WA)**

Jock Ferguson
Phone: +61 8 9223 0800
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Or you can ring 421-1049 in Manila and ask for Australian 457 visa assistance.

Protect your rights to work. AMWU is here to help you!

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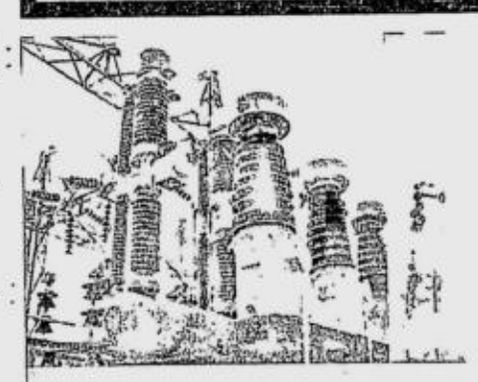

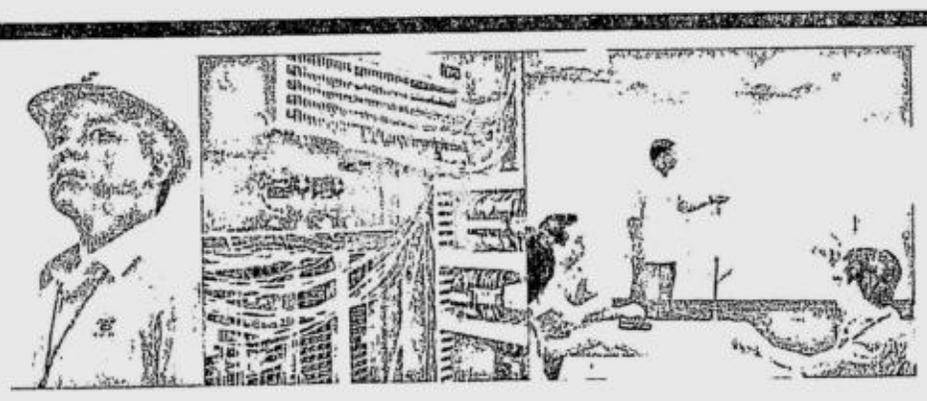

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The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION** is pleased to invite all interested applicants to the following programs under its **INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM** for the Year 2008:

- **CADETSHIP PROGRAM**
A six (6) month on-the-job training program intended for graduates of Electrical (EE) and Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) Courses.

- **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**
A six (6) month on-the-job training program intended for graduates of Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Technology, Electronics Technology, Computer Technician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**
- Not more than twenty-five (25) years old;
- No failing grades in major subjects (bring Transcript of Records for reference);
- For the Apprenticeship Program, applicants must pass the TransCo Mental Ability, Aptitude and Personality Test (MAAP) Test;
- For the Cadetship Program, applicants must pass the TransCo MAAP Test and the Technical Examination* formulated by the TransCo Board of Examiners.

## On-the-job training starts on February 12, 2008

Only applicants who meet the first two (2) requirements may personally apply until November 23, 2007 (1:30PM to 4:30PM only) at the following TransCo Offices.

FOR RESIDENTS OF NORTH LUZON AREA:

HR/Admin Division - Regional Office
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point
San Fernando City, La Union
Tel No. (072)888-0837

District 1 - Ilocos Area
Bauang Substation, Barangay Pottot
Bauang, La Union
Tel No. (072)242-1178

District 2 - Mt. Province Area
Beckel Substation, La Trinidad, Benguet
Tel No. (074)444-7425

District 3 - North Central Plain Area
San Manuel Substation, San Manuel, Pangasinan
Tel No. (075)565-3260

District 4 - Cagayan Valley Area
Santiago Substation, Barangay Rizal
Santiago City, Isabela
Tel No. (078)682-8406

District 5 - West Central Plain Area
Hermosa Substation, Barangay Balsik
Hermosa, Bataan
Tel No. (047)481-3839

District 6 - South Central Plain Area
Mexico Substation, San Jose Matulid
Mexico, Pampanga
Tel No. (045)966-0436

District 7 - Northern Tagalog Area
San Jose Substation, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan
Tel No. (044)691-3330

FOR RESIDENTS OF VISAYAS AREA:

HR/Admin Division - Regional Office
Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City
Tel No. (032)343-9815

District 1 - Panay Area
Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City
Tel No. (033)336-1489

District 2 - Cebu-Bohol Area
Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City
Tel No. (032)346-9338

District 3 - Leyte-Samar Area
Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City
Tel No. (053)561-0140

District 4 - Negros Area
Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City
Tel No. (034)435-4418

FOR RESIDENTS OF METRO MANILA AREA:

Human Resource Training Division
Human Resources Department
G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center,
Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. (02)981-2157

FOR RESIDENTS OF SOUTH LUZON AREA:

HR/Admin Division - Regional Office
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna
Tel No. (049)981-4576

District 1 - Batangas/Cavite
Mahabang Parang, Batangas City
Tel No. (043)300-3591

District 2 - Laguna/Quezon
Barangay Real, Calamba City
Tel No. (049)545-1915

District 3 - Bicol Area
Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay
Tel No. (052)824-1102

FOR RESIDENTS OF MINDANAO AREA:

HR/Admin Division - Regional Office
Ma. Cristina, Iligan City
Tel No. (063)223-6612

District 1 - North Western Mindanao Area
Rizal Avenue, San Pedro, Pagadian City
Tel No. (062)2174-1856

District 2 - Lanao Area
Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City
Tel No. (063)221-6133

District 3 - North Central Mindanao Area
Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (088)227-23716

District 4 - North Eastern Mindanao Area
J. C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel No. (085)815-2178

District 5 - South Eastern Mindanao Area
3rd Floor D&G Building,
corner Yellowville and Sampaguita
Mintal, Davao City
Tel No. (082)293-0205

District 6 - South Western Mindanao Area
Calumpang, General Santos City
Tel No. (083)553-2819

*Only those who passed the MAAP Test are qualified to take the Technical Examination.

National Transmission Corporation

*The INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM aims to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electric power transmission.*

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

**Rubicon Electro Inc.**

*A growing Electrical Construction company at HANJIN Subic Shipyard SBMA is in need of highly qualified professional individual.*

**Site Electrical Engineer (Foreman)**

- 3 to 5 years of field experience.
- Hardworking, patient and has good interpersonal skills.
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (RME or REE is an advantage).

For interested applicants you can send your updated CV/Resumé with 2"x 2" picture to

Rubicon Electro Inc.
c/o Julien Cargo
Lot 7, 2nd Floor Greenwood Park
CBD Area, Rizal Avenue,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Or email at rss1201@yahoo.com
Attn: Rose S. Sumandal
Administrative Officer

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **ENTREX, INC.** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI - October 4 - 24, 2007)

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that **Liberty Aviation Corporation** has been dissolved. If you have any valid claims against said company, please contact (Rizza B. Blanco) at Tel. No. (5269443).

(PDI – October 4 – 24, 2007)

## SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE AND CORPORATION

17th Floor 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

## INVITATION TO BID

The following properties are offered for sale thru Public Bidding on October 30, 2007

| Asset Code | Lot Size (sqm) | TCT No. | Description/location | Minimum bid price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Properties | | | | |
| 1. MMM A | 1,997 | 421862 | Agricultural land located at Bo. Anupul, Bambam, Tarlac | 758,000.00 |
| 2. SRRC - 1 | 2,299 | T-5745 | Agricultural land located at Bo. Namnama, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao | 527,440.00 |
| SRRC - 2 | 5,000 | ARP # 1999-088003-00687 | Agricultural land located at Bo. Bangigue, Kiangan, Ifugao | 25,000.00 |
| 3. A.S CAD | 375 | T-24649 | Industrial Furniture Shop located at Narra St., Poblacion Norte, Madella, Quirino | 131,250.00 |
| 4. DECO | 1,500 | 419173 | Agro-Industrial land located at Maliwao-R8, Zone 5, Maliwalo Tarlac, Tarlac | 2,969,080.00 |
| 5. JVFK | 705 | 306027 | Residential lot located at Bo. Sapang, Manaoag, Pangasinan | 423,000.00 |
| 6. SRND | 15,130 | T-138939 | Residential house located along Bo. Bawi, Padre Garcia, Batangas City | 3,046,120.00 |
| Personal Properties | | | | |
| Type of Equipment | | | | |
| 7. (1) unit Multi-Tech Piping Machine | | | Model No. MT-3503 Serial No. 945085. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories. | 14,000.00 |
| 8. "Kingtex" Cylinder Bed Type Hemming Machine | | | Model No. CTL-6511and Serial No. 2031429. Complete with Clutch Motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea. | 46,000.00 |
| 9. Five (5) units "Kingtex" High Speed Machine Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic." Made in Korea | | | Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987257<br>Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987407<br>Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987411<br>Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987564<br>Model No. KL-550N and Serial No. 0987271 | 8,000.00<br>8,000.00<br>8,000.00<br>8,000.00<br>8,000.00 |
| 10. Four Units "Kingtex Computerized High Speed Machines Single needle complete with clutch motor, working table and other standard accessories "Automatic" Made in Korea | | | Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2019041<br>Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2027578<br>Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026850<br>Model No. KL-300M/A and Serial No.2026841<br>All sewing machines are located at SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City. | 13,000.00<br>13,000.00<br>13,000.00<br>13,000.00 |
| 11. 7 units Split Type-Trane aircon | | | SBGFC warehouse in Cubao, Quezon City | 56,000.00 |
| 12. High Book Shelf | | | -do- | 400.00 |
| 13. 3 units White Board (with frame) | | | -do- | 1,560.00 |
| 14. 11 units double Computer Tables<br>6 units single Computer Tables | | | -do-<br>-do- | 8,800.00<br>2,400.00 |
| 15. One (1) unit Clerical Chairs with arms<br>Two (2) units without arms<br>One (1) unit screw type | | | -do- | 300.00<br>400.00<br>150.00 |
| 16. Nine (9) units double Computer Table | | | Warehouse in Taguig City | 7,200.00 |
| 17. 2 units Customized Table | | | SBGFC warehouse in Dasmariñas, Cavite | 800.00 |
| 18. One Unit Overhead Projector | | | 17th Floor SB Corp. office in Makati City | 2,550.00 |
| 19. One unit Mitsubishi L300 | | | Plate No. TBD-619, Type HSPUR W/ analoc, Motor No. 4D 6DU-4525, Chassis No.L039PYZ-03395 located in Cauayan, Isabela | 45,000.00 |

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Description of the above properties, bidding rules and regulations and the prescribed bid forms are available at the 17th Floor, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Contact Atty. Jessie Reotutar, Santiago C. Tuliao and Willie Silo at tel no. (02) 813-5721/(02) 751 1888.
2. Sealed bid forms together with the 10% bid bond will be received by SBGFC-ADC Secretariat from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 30. 2007. Other bids beyond the said time shall no longer be accepted.
3. Each bids proposal shall be accompanied by a Manager's Check issued in Metro Manila payable to the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) in the amount equivalent to 10% of the bid. Please accomplish one (1) bid form for every property.
4. In case of CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS (defined as other bid submitted within the range of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an OPEN BIDDING in which all bidders whose bids within 85% of the highest bid may participate. The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P5,000.00.
5. Properties will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from SBGFC. Bidders are enjoyed to personally inspect/investigate/verify actual site and status of documents of ownership with the appropriate Register of Deeds before formally submitting their bids to ascertain their actual condition.
6. All sales shall be subject to confirmation by the SBGFC Credit Committee.
7. If for any reason the bidding date is declared as non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at same time and place abovementioned.

SBGFC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, ACCEPT SUCH BID AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COMPANY OR CALL OFF A BIDDING PRIOR TO ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE BIDS AND CALL FOR A NEW BID UNDER AMENDED RULES. THE DECISION OF SBGFC IS FINAL AND BINDING.

(SGD.) **FE DOLORES GATUS**
Chairman-ADC

(PDI--Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
**SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL**
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone Nos.: 732-37-76 to 76; 732-31-06
Email Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mccit@info.com.ph

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **San Lazaro Hospital** hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturer and retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials, for the 1st semester, January - June 2008; Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment for CY 2008**. Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.

**Application forms for ELIGIBILITY** shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00)**, for Hospital Supplies and Materials and **Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00)** for Hospital Contractual Services and Hospital Office/Medical Equipment from **October 22, 2007 up to the date before the submission and openig of the bids** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the BAC Secretariat, Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION** of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility and supporting documents shall **not be later than the day before the scheduled date of submission and opening of bid per category.** Please bring original copies of all submitted documents for proper authentication.

Interested Bidders can obtain the **BID DOCUMENTS** to the BAC Secretariat, located at the Property & Supply Office, San Lazaro Hospital from **November 7, 2007 up to the date before the opening of the bids** by category upon submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and upon payment of non-refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the Hospital Collection Unit:

| CATEGORIES | APPROVED BUDGET COST (lumpsum) | CONTRACT PERIOD | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Drugs/Medicine Supplies (REGULAR and REVOLVING | Php 29,000,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 5,000.00 |
| • Medical Supplies | Php 3,000,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 1,000.00 |
| • Radiology Supplies | Php 250,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 500.00 |
| • Dietary Foodstuff Supplies | Php 3,500,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 1,000.00 |
| • Janitorial Supplies | Php 100,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 500.00 |
| • Maintenance Supplies | Php 500,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 500.00 |
| • Linen/Laundry Supplies | Php 375,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 500.00 |
| • Laboratory Supplies/Reagent | Php 7,500,000.00 | Jan. - June, 2008 | Php 2,500.00 |
| • Laboratory Reagents w/ Machine tie-up | Php 5,500,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 2,500.00 |
| • Medical Gases & Oxygen | Php 10,000,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 5,000.00 |
| • Dental Supplies | Php 300,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 500.00 |
| • Janitorial Service | Php 9,600,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 3,000.00 |
| • Security Service | Php 4,300,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 2,000.00 |
| • Hospital Office/Medical Equipment | Php 4,000,000.00 | 30 to 45 days per receipt of PO | Php 2,000.00 |
| • Purified Drinking Water | Php 175,000.00 | Jan. - Dec., 2008 | Php 500.00 |

**General PRE-BID CONFERENCE** will be held on November 9, 2007, 9:00 am at the SLH Amphitheater, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

BID QUOTATIONS must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat at the time/dates specified above, which said bids will be opened to the Public on:

| CATEGORIES | OPENING | SCHEDULE |
|---|---|---|
| • Drugs/Medicine Supplies | 9:01 am | November 26, 2007 |
| • Laboratory Supplies & Reagents and | 1:31 pm | -do- |
| • Laboratory Reagents w/ machine tie-up | 1:31 pm | |
| • Medical Supplies/Med Gases & Oxygen | 9:01 am | November 27, 2007 |
| • Dietary Foodstuff Supplies/Radiology | 1:31 pm | -do- |
| • Dental/Janitorial/Linen & Laundry Supplies | 2:31 pm | -do- |
| • Maintenance Supplies | 3:01 pm | -do- |
| • Janitorial/Security Services | 9:01 am | November 28, 2007 |
| • Hospital Office/Medical Equipment | 1:31 pm | -do- |
| • Purified Drinking Water | 3:01 pm | -do- |

Each ***BID*** must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the lumpsum per category of the **Approved Budget Cost (ABC)** participated in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).

All abovecited activities shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat, at telephone no. 3099552 and Procurement Unit at no. 3099517.

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, AND REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – Oct. 21 & 28, 2007)

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# UE

## The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST

The **UE College of Engineering-Caloocan**
is in need of INSTRUCTORS for its BS in Information Technology (BSIT), BS in Industrial Engineering (BSIE), BS in Computer Engineering (BSCpE) and BS in Civil Engineering (BSCE) for the Second Semester of SY 2007-2008 and/or First Semester of SY 2008-2009.

Qualifications of applicants:

- A graduate of BSIT, BSCpE, BSIE and BSCE of a reputable school
- BSCE applicants must be licensed Civil Engineers
- A holder of a master's degree related to his/her field of study
- Preferably with teaching and industry experience

For details, please call or visit the Dean's Office, UE College of Engineering-Caloocan: Ground Floor, Engineering Building, UE Caloocan, 105 Samson Road, Caloocan City
Telephone nos. 367-4572 loc. 166 or 365-4121 or visit us at

**www.ue.edu.ph/caloocan**

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IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**IOM Legaspi Sub Office**
672 University Homes, Washington Drive, Legaspi City
Tel No. (052) 4814182
www.iom.int

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB No. : LGP001 - 07

October 21, 2007

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is an intergovernmental organization established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society. IOM performs an array of programs in more than 298 field locations in 100+ countries around the world in various programmatic areas pertaining to migration management. In its over 50 years of existence, IOM has been active in the Philippines for over 25 years carrying out various programs.

In the framework of **Bicol Core Permanent Shelter and Community Revitalization Assistant Project** which aim to provide adequate permanent housing to IDP's in the Bicol Region. The **IOM - Bids, Evaluation and Award Committee ("BEAC")** now invites interested **Manufacturers and/or Suppliers ("Bidders") from Metro Manila and Bicol** to bid for the Supply and Delivery of the following Construction Materials:

| Lot No. | Item Description | Estd. Quantity Qty | Unit | Delivery Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **12mm dia. X 6m length RSB (5.328 kg/6m)** Structural PNS Grade 230, ASTM grade 33 | 61,200 | Pcs | Municipalities of Baao, Nabua, Buhi, Cam.Sur; Guinobatan and Camalig Albay |
| 2 | **10mm dia. X 6m length RSB (3.696 kg/6m)** Structural PNS Grade 230, ASTM grade 33 | 67,500 | Pcs | |
| 3 | **8mm dia. X 6m length RSB (2.2 kg/6m)** Structural PNS Grade 230, ASTM grade 33 | 109,800 | Pcs | |
| 4 | **Portland Cement (Type 1P, 40kgs/bag)** | 124,200 | Bags | |

Eligible Bidders from Metro Manila and Bicol may form a joint venture. Suppliers may bid on the items by lot or combination of lots. Similarly, the award may be given by lot or combination of lots to qualified Bidder/s with the lowest evaluated price offer.

A complete set of Bidding Documents is available for issuance to Interested Bidders at IOM - Legaspi Sub Office, 672 University Homes, Washington Drive, Legaspi City and at IOM Manila Administrative Center, 25/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Philippines on **October 22, 2007 to October 25, 2007** from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on **October 24, 2007** at **1:00pm** at IOM Legaspi Sub Office, 672 University Homes, Washington Drive, Legaspi City.

Bids shall be delivered to the BEAC on **October 30, 2007 / 1:00 pm** at IOM Legaspi Sub Office, 672 University Homes, Washington Drive, Legaspi City and bids shall be valid for forty five calendar days (45cd) after submission. Bids will be opened after the submission time on the same date and address in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend. No late bids will be accepted.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

Very truly yours,

**(Sgd.) REX ARNOLD ALAMBAN**
BEAC Chairperson

(PDI--Oct. 21, 2007)

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Department of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
**FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 837-2934; 837-2071 to 82; Fax No.: (632) 837-3164

"FIGHT MALNUTRITION WITH ACCURATE DATA, CORRECT INFORMATION AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES"

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DOST invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item.

| Item / Description | Approved Budget for the Contract | Date / Time: Pre-Bid Conference | Date / Time: Final Opening of Bids | Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable) | End-User |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 unit Twin - Screw Extruder | P 2.5 M | Nov. 12, 2007 10:00 AM FNRI Conference Room | Nov. 19, 2007 10:00 AM FNRI Conference Room | P 2,500.00 | FSTD |

Bid forms may be obtained from the FNRI-Bids and Awards - Secretariat, Property Section, FNRI Bldg. DOST Cpd., Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during office hours starting November 6, 2007.

Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers for the pre-bid conference.

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G. Perlas / Mr. Hilarion D. Sanchez, Jr. at telephone no. 837-61-49.

FNRI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. FNRI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in participating in the bidding.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.**
Chairman, FNRI-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 21, 2007)

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# Alberto Huetos presents at CCP

Alberto Huetos

SPANISH CHOREOgrapher Alberto Huetos presents his latest modern dance piece entitled "Yo Sólo Quiero Caminar" (I Just Want To Go On) on Oct. 20, 7:30 pm at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The event, presented in cooperation with Instituto Cervantes Manila and part of Spanish Fiesta 2007, is open to the public on a first come first served basis.

"Yo Sólo Quiero Caminar" features Flamenco dancers in colorful costumes, stomping to rhythmic guitar music.

For further information, please contact the CCP Dance Division at 832-1125 loc. 1602-1603 or Instituto Cervantes at 526-1447.

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# Beethoven's piano concertos

IN COMMEMORATION OF LUDWIG VAN Beethoven's 180th death anniversary, Virtuoso Events Services, in cooperation with MCO Foundation, Inc. and Equitable PCI Bank, is staging "Ludwig van Beethoven: The 5 Piano Concertos" on Oct. 21 and 26, at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Banco de Oro South tower, Makati Avenue corner H.V. De la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

This rare musical event will bring to life Beethoven's Piano Concertos under the musical genius of Aries Caces, the "Gem of Philippine Music Scene" and one of the most versatile Filipino concert artists who will be both Pianist and Conductor in these performances.

Caces will be joined by the members of the University of Santo Tomas Symphony Orchestra and will perform Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos. 2, 1 and 4 on Oct. 21 and Piano Concertos Nos. 3 and 5 on Oct. 26.

For further inquiries on tickets to the event, please call 493-0443 or 9144162.

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## REUNION

ST. JAMES Academy Malabon Jamerbatch '86 will hold a reunion entitled as " BALIK TANAW" on December 29, 2007, 5pm, at the Oasis, Quezon City . For inquiries, please call 4472525 or 09189379587, look for Arnold Naval or Bernice.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory Amen

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•Proj6 #58Road3 Coml/Resdl• 9219967/0255; 09178865431

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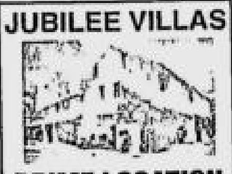

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Glorioso V. Valdez was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #0492, Page #100, Book #III, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Aileen D. Reglo of Makati City.
(PDI - Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

**LEGAL NOTICE**
Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CLEOFE SAILE was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.688 Page75 BookXXXIII Series 2004 before Notary Public Edgar J. Baguio of Dipolog City
(PDI – Oct. 14, 2007)

### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RUPERTO L. SAN JUAN has been extrajudicially settled as per Doc 471 Page 095 Bk 3 Series of 2007 Before Notary Public Atty. Edwin P. Cruz of Taytay Rizal
(PDI- Oct. 7, 14, 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses Generoso del Rosario and Rufina Cacha del Rosario was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 829 Page 166 Book X Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty Milagros Raminfrancia of Quezon City.
PDI - Oct. 14, 21 & 21, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AU YONG STAT has been the subject of an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by his sole heir Tong Fong Bee as per Doc. No. 269 Page No. 54 Book No. VI Series of 2007 Notary Public Atty Nelson P. Pagaduan of Manila City.
PDI-Oct.21,28 & Nov.4, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GIL ABLAN & PACITA ABAÑO was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc#295 Page#59 Book#59 Series of 2007 by Notary Public Editha P. Talaboc, City of Manila.
(PDI - Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MINDA S. REGLOS was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 289 Page No. 58 Book No. 13 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty. Anatalio P. Gadia of Lipa City
(PDI-Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 200)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONINA A. BINSOL was extrajudicially settled to her sole heirs as per Doc No. 389; Page No. 79; Book No IV, Series of 2007 of Notary Public Ramil Joselito B. Tamayo.
(PDI- October 21, 28, November 4, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE EUGENIO SAN BUENAVENTURA SR. WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THEIR HEIRS AS PER DOC #394 PAGE #78 BOOK #82 SERIES OF 2007 BY NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. IGNACIO M. ROXAS OF MAND. CITY
(PDI-Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO TAN and VIRGINIA CHENG TAN was extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 67, Page No. 14, Book No. 57, Series of 2007 before Notary Public Socrates G. Maranan of Manila.
(Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2007)

### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given the lost EBC Stock Cert. 36527 with 400 shares issued REBECCA M. SANTIAGO. If no contest received new cert to be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 14,21&28, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that EPCI Stock Cert. No. 55918 issued to CATALINA C. JUSTO has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will issued.
(PDI-Oct.21 28&Nov.4.2007)

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### NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert 4547 40 shrs 18645 153 shrs; 50842 38 shrs; 713 10 shrs; 6201 2 shrs ; 95389 48 shrs; 48294 3 shrs; 121873 69 shrs; 145125 69 shrs; 63539 3 shrs; 178120 83 shrs; 81814 3 shrs; 203038 100 shrs; 98227 4 shrs; 228989 150 shrs; 115486 6 shrs; 246813 150 shrs ; 125305 6 shrs; 274255 187 shrs; under the name of AGRIPINO CABANAS are lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 21, 28, & Nov. 4, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that ATLAS Consolidation Mining and Development Corporation,stock certificate nos. 00042773,00047628 00048228,00058265 00099966,A 00009849 A 00085399 A 00109584,A 00136820 A 00174388,A 00207421 A 00248007 issued to ELIAS POBLETE was reportedly lost.If no contest is received new certificates will be issued (PDI-Oct. 7,14 & 21,2007)

**NOTICE OF LOSS**
Notice is hereby given the losts of Riviera Golf Club Stock Cert No. 0180 w/ one Class C share of Capital Stock issued to TOA Corp. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI -- Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 2007)

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## *GAUDIUM CUM PACE*

# ATTY. AGUSTIN CORONEL DIZON

**of Porac, Pampanga; Capas, Tarlac and San Juan, Metro Manila**

left this mortal world on 19 October 2007
after 71 years of a life well-lived.

His loving wife, **Melanie**, children, **Tess** and **Eddie**, **Vince**, **Paolo** and **Camille**, and **Vittorio**, granddaughter **Montserrat**, sister **Concepcion,** and **Vicente**, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives, friends and associates request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment follows on 23 October 2007 after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 10 o'clock in the morning at the Santuario de San Jose Parish, East Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

**Dizon Copper Silver Mines Incorporated**
The Officers, Management and Staff

and

**The Heirs of Celestino and Maria Dizon**

announce the passing of its former Corporate Secretary

# ATTY. AGUSTIN "GUS" C. DIZON

**March 9, 1936 – October 19, 2007**

has peacefully returned to his Creator.

His bereaved wife, **Melanie Bringas Dizon**;

His children: **Ma. Theresa Dizon-de Vega** and husband **Eduardo de Vega, Vince B. Dizon, Augusto Paolo B. Dizon** and wife **Camille, Vittorio B. Dizon** and grandchild **Montserrat Dizon de Vega**;

His sister, **Dra. Concepcion D. Enciso**, husband **Vicente** and children;

Relatives and Friends

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Church in Greenhills, San Juan. Interment will follow a funeral mass at 10 a.m., 23 October 2007, Tuesday, at the Santuario de San Jose.

# Olga J. Severino

*passed away on 26 June 2007 in Los Angeles, California at the age of 53,*
*after a courageous battle with myasthenia gravis,*
*a rare and incurable condition.*

*A very generous daughter to our parents, the late **Plaridel (Nene)** and **Ofelia**, a beloved niece to our **Tita Pat (Patria)**, a great sister to her siblings **Eric, Leif, Hans** & **Gina**, a doting aunt to her many nephews & nieces, **Nicole, Valerie, Mark Neil, Stephanie, Marcel, Amy Desiree Olga, Hans Jr., Patricia** & **Marc Dominic** and a dear friend to many, **Olga** whom loved life so much, will be dearly missed, though she remains forever in our hearts.*

*Starting at 10:00 in the morning of Monday, 22 October 2007, Catholic Services, including a mass at 6:00 in the evening, will be held for Olga at the San Diego Parish Mortuary, Silay City, Negros Occidental.*

*Following final mass at 2:00 in the afternoon of Tuesday, 23 October 2007 at the Lasting Peace Memorial Park, Silay City, a place she loved so much she called it home, Olga's ashes will be interred where she will rest beside our dear father, Plaridel.*

*Farewell, dear Olga!*

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit

Announce the death of

**SISTER ERMENFREDA, S.Sp.S.**
**(HILDA MACHANEC)**

*on October 19, 2007 at the age of 96 at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.*

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on Monday, October 22, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, 8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

**"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."**
John 11:25-26


*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

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*Always caring...*
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

**WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS**
and bank-to-bank payments

# JEANNA PEÑAMORA ADOLFO

**21 May 1946 - 13 October 2007**

A child of God, lay missionary, an honest & dedicated public servant/lawyer, a loving and jolly person.

*Peacefully joined our Creator and was united with our beloved parents **Marcial Fernandez Adolfo, Sr.** and **Virginia Peñamora Adolfo.***

We, her family, **Daisy, Marcial Jr. (Peggy), Remelyn, Edith, Jojo, Hesed Victor (Bunjoy), Jannah, Janmar, Daren Roy, & Daniel** together with all our relatives, friends and the Philippine Ports Authority management & staff request the readers to celebrate her meaningful life by continuing her legacy of love, Christian discipleship, passion for justice, peace and service to the poor.

Her body lies at St. Peter Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The worship service to celebrate her life and ministry will be held on **23 October 2007, 8:00 AM** at **GOOD SAMARITAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 915 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City**.

Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

## Message of Thanks

We, the **Yujuico Family – Juanito Jr., Carlos (†), Virgilio, Orlando, Ernesto, Rachel, Nilo, Gilda, Imelda, Roberto, Arleen, Brenda, Aurelio(†), Ramon** and **Winefredo** together with the 40 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, would like to express our deepest thanks to our relatives, friends and business associates who consoled and celebrated with us the life of our beloved Mother,

**Belen Valencia Yujuico**

widow of the late **Atty. Juanito C. Yujuico** who returned to our Creator last August 8, 2007 at the age of 91 and was interred on August 15, 2007 at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach California.

## Death Notice

**Kurt Mathew B. Isip**

*Born on Nov. 08, 1996 Submit to God's grace on Oct. 19, 2007.*

His remains lie in state at 67 Aries St., Purok 3, Tipo, Hermosa, Bataan.

He will have his final rites on Oct. 23, 2007.

**Jose E. Jamias, Jr.**

*Joe departed this life on October 9, 2007 in Daly City, California, USA.*

A Memorial Mass for Joe and our other departed classmates will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, November 11th at the Ateneo High School Chapel in Loyola Heights.

# Dr. Ernesto P. Namin

*Joined our Creator on October 19, 2007 at the age of 77.*

He is survived by his wife, **Carmela**; children, **Greg** and **Mary Jo**, **Theda**, **Tisha** and **Francis**, **Raymond** and **Agnes**; grandchildren, **Gabe** and **Reese**. His family requests your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His ashes lie in state at the La Salle Chapel, Bacolod City. Interment will be at the Bacolod Memorial Park on Monday, October 22, 2007 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the La Salle Chapel, Bacolod City.

In Loving Memory of
**Engr. Filemon B. Zafra Jr.**
March 2, 1927 - October 4, 2007

**Wife:** Mrs. Jacinta T. Zafra
**Surviving Children:**
Cynthia, Rhoda, Sally, Tristan, Yusoff.

**Will Lie in State:**
OCT. 24 to OCT. 27, 2007
**Zafra's Residence:**
222 San Sebastian
Hagonoy, Bulacan
TEL: 044-793-0315

**Memorial Service:**
Saturday, OCT. 27, 2007, 1:30PM
Hagonoy United Methodist Church
**Final Resting Place:**
Hagonoy Municipal Cemetery

For more info go to: ***www.fbzafra.com*** **OR** CELL: +63(917)570-2258

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."**
John 3:16

# CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292
October 21, 2007

## NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

| Name and Address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National/Citizenship | Position |
|---|---|---|
| 1. CAVITE GOLDEN DRAGON TRADING CORP. Governor's Drive, Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite | Mr. Bingyu Huang/ Chinese | General Manager |
| 2. LUCKY ANTS CORPORATION GMBP, Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite | Ms. Joo Hee Lee/ Korean | Assistant General Manager |
| 3. FIRST SUMIDEN CIRCUITS, INC. LISP I, Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna | Mr. MasahikoTakahashi/ Japanese | Senior Vice President for Sales & Marketing Division |
| 4. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan Laguna | Mr. Daesock Yang/ Korean | Department Manager, TDT-SOIC/PDIP |
| 5. H & P FAMILY TRAVEL CORPORATION Calamba Rd., San Jose, Tagaytay City | Mr. Su Goo Park/ Korean | Manager |
| 6. HOFFEN INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite | Mr. Xiaohe Liu/ Chinese | Production Technician |
| 7. HOFFEN INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite | Mr. Xuemin Wang/ Chinese | Production Technician |

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI - Oct. 21, 2007)

Case No. CV 0707098
Dept. No. II

**IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHITE PINE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AS TO

CHARLOTTE MACARANAS
Minor child.

**NOTICE**

TO: TEOTIMO DIZON, father of the above-named minor; and to all persons claiming to be the father of this minor;

You are hereby notified that there has been filed in the above-entitled court a petition praying for the termination of parental rights over the above-named minor person, and that the petition has been set for hearing before this Court, at the courtroom thereof, in the County of White Pine, State of Nevada, on the 26th day of November, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., at which time and place you are required to be present if you desire to oppose the petition.

DATED this 13 day of September, 2007.

DONNA M. BATH
CLERK OF COURT

By: Deputy Clerk

(PDI – October 14 & 21, 2007)

## Stable US-based company in the Philippines

Most powerful
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A must attend for all opportunity
preview / interview on
October 23 & 24, 2007
Time : 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Please email to: **nuage@asia.com** NOW!!!
or call / text 0915-3234615 ; 0905-3590165 on
October 22, 2007 for appointment.

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Mr. ANJILOU I. FLORES** is no longer connected with **MAGIS ACADEMY**, effective October 8, 2007.

**Mr. FLORES** (whose picture appears above) has been on **ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL).**

Any transactions entered into by the aforesaid person, for and on behalf of **MAGIS ACADEMY** will not be recognized.

*– MAGIS ACADEMY Administrative Office*

(PDI - Oct. 19 & 21, 2007)

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

**On 5 November 2007, the Embassy of Sweden will launch its 1-900 Embassy Visa Information & Appointment Service.**

Information on applying for a visa to Sweden may be obtained by calling the Call Center through the following numbers:

| | |
|---|---|
| For PLDT/Smart/Touchcard Subscribers | 1 (909) 101 - 7900 |
| For Globe/Innove/Touchmobile Subscribers | 1 (900) 101 - 7900 |
| For Bayantel Subscribers | 1 (903) 101 - 7900 |

This service is available thru a toll call charge costing PHP 32.00 per minute excluding VAT and applicable NDD charges for calls made outside Metro Manila. Additional rates may apply for calls made through payphones, prepaid phone cards or mobile phones. Please check with your telephone provider for details. This service is available only through NDD-enabled telephones and accessible to calls made within the Philippines.

(PDI--Oct. 21, 2007)

JOB Market SA LIBRE

**Inquire at 897-8808 loc 514.**

Management Systems International (MSI) project with offices in Salcedo Village, Makati, is looking for a:

**Closed Case Study Specialist/Firm**

The Closed Case Study Specialist or the Firm in case the study will be carried out by a team will be reported directly to the Chief of Party, who is also the Senior Advisor to the Ombudsman Component. He/She/Firm will work closely with the Component Manager for Ombudsman Component. He/She/Firm will define the framework, scope, methodology for data gathering and analysis and parameters of the closed case study in closes consultation with the Ombudsman, OSP and MCA-PTP TAP; gather data for the closed case analysis; analyze data gathered on closed cases; prepare, submit and present the results the study on the quantitative and qualitative data on the closed cases; perform other related tasks that may be assigned by the COP.

The Close Case Study Specialist/Firm must have an extensive legal research experience particularly in profiling and analyzing decided cases to develop useful recommendations and concept notes.

Interested applicants, please send in your applications to **mpastrana@msi-mca.com** or mail them to Unit 2302, 23rd Floor, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedeno corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati, 1227. Deadline for applications is October 26, 2007.

**ANNOUNCEMENT to our valued advertisers**

**PDI Kalaw branch**
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**G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila (in front of National Library)**

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## LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation
A Subsidiary of the Land Bank of the Philippines

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC)** through its **Committee on Bids and Awards (CBA)**, invites all contractors, registered with and classified at least **"(SMALL/MEDIUM)"** by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

| PROJECT | CONTRACT DURATION/FUNDING | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT |
|---|---|---|
| LBP MARIVELES BRANCH RENOVATION (RE-BID) | 60 CD, LBRDC FUND | P 1,715,677.12 |
| LBP NOVALICHES BRANCH RENOVATION (RE-BID) | 45 CD, LBRDC FUND | P 2,400,000.00 |
| LBP SAN FERNANDO (LA UNION) BLDG. CONSTRUCTION | 300 CD, LBRDC FUND | P 34,362,000.00 |
| LBP MALAYBALAY (BUKIDNON) BLDG. CONSTRUCTION | 270 CD, LBRDC FUND | P 24,612,246.59 |

The Schedule of CBA activities are as follows:

| Activities | Date/Time | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including application for Eligibility | OCT. 22-29, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM | LBRDC |
| 2. Issuance of Eligibility Documents | NOV. 05-12, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM | LBRDC |
| 3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | NOV. 13, 2007 @ 2:30 PM | LBRDC |
| 4. Issuance of Bidding Documents | NOV. 16-NOV. 23, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM | LBRDC |
| 5. Pre-Bidding Conference | NOVEMBER 26, 2007 @ 2:00 PM | LBRDC |
| 6. Opening of Bids (Bidding) | DECEMBER 11, 2007 @ 2:00 PM | LBRDC |

LBRDC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at Land Bank Realty Development Corporation's (LBRDC) Offices at the 30/F, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila upon their submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI), presentation of the original copy of their contractor's license issued by PCAB, and upon payment of a non-refundable and non-transferable fee of **P500.00 (for projects below P10M), P1,000.00 (for projects P10M and above)**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements and may obtain the results of the Eligibility Checks based on the schedule above. Bid Documents will be made available for issuance to eligible bidders upon presentation of their Notice of Eligibility and payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,000.00 (for projects below P5M), P1,500.00 (for projects P5M to 10M) & P3,000.00 (for projects above 10M)**.

LBRDC reserves the right to change the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to LBRDC. Furthermore, LBRDC is not obliged to compensate/indemnify contractors for any expense or loss that contractors may incur in the preparation of their bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

For further details, please call **Mr. Allan Redondo/Aries L. Mendoza / Nenette Camingawan** at 405-7169 / 405-7402 / 405-7135.

(Sgd.) ENGR. SERGIO R. BERNARDO
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2007)

## UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Governor Pack Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-3888

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Baguio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name of Contract | : | PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CAC BUILDING |
| Location | : | UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO CAMPUS |
| Brief Description | : | Construction of a two-storey CAC Building |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | : | Php 19,503,011.94 |
| Contract Duration | : | 240 calendar days |

Prospective bidders (of at least Medium A category) should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Advertisement / Posting of IAEB | October 22-26, 2007 |
| 2. Letter of Intent | October 29-November 7, 2007 |
| 3. Receipt and Opening of Eligibility Requirements (Eligibility Requirements must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Opening of Eligibility requirements at 9:00 AM at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room) / Eligibility check for civil works / Notice of Results of Eligibility Check | November 9, 2007 |
| 4. Issuance of Bid Documents / Preparation of Bids | November 12-18, 2007 |
| 5. Pre-bid Conference (9:00 am at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room) | November 20, 2007 |
| 6. Receipt and Opening of Bids (Bids must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration. Opening of bids at 9:00 AM at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room) | December 3, 2007 |
| 7. Bid Evaluation | December 4, 2007 |
| 8. Post-qualification | December 5-8, 2007 |
| 9. Notice of Award | December 10, 2007 |
| 10. Notice to Proceed | December 17, 2007 |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the **Supply & Property Management Office c/o Mr. Rogelio S. Movilla, Jr.**, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)** to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier.

The University of the Philippines Baguio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The UP Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) TEOFINA A. RAPANUT
BAC Chair

(PDI–Oct. 21 & 28, 2007)

## WINROCK INTERNATIONAL
Putting Ideas to Work

### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program is a five-year project implemented by Winrock International (WI) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Philippine Department of Energy (DOE), and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The objective of this procurement is to solicit responsive offers from qualified bidders to submit proposals on the construction and commissioning of a 5Kw microhydro power plant in Barangay Resa, Municipality of Datu Blah Sinsuat, Province of Sharif Kabunsuan in Mindanao.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be made in writing and delivered, e-mailed, or faxed, no later than 5:00 pm of October 26, 2007, to: Benedict V. Sulit, Procurement Officer, AMORE Manila Office, 1501 Jollibee Plaza Bldg., F. Ortigas, Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; Tel. No. 63-2-687-9091 to 92; Fax No. 63-2-631-8215; E-mail: bsulit@amore.org.ph.

All EOI's shall be evaluated by the AMORE Technical Review and Awards Team. A complete set of the Request for Proposal (RFP) kit is available from AMORE Manila Office, or downloaded from the AMORE website (www.amore.org.ph) on October 29, 2007. A pre-bid conference will be held on November 5, 2007, 1:00 pm, at the AMORE Manila Office to accommodate inquiries. Pre-qualified organizations will be notified via fax or e-mail.

Deadline for the submission of technical and financial proposals is on November 19, 2007, 5:00 pm.

WI reserves the right to reject any or all applications for pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the party with the most advantageous offer for the project. WI assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2007)

## PETRON

### BE A SERVICE STATION DEALER OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING OIL COMPANY

| Service Station Location | Required Cash Capital | Deadline of Submission |
|---|---|---|
| – A. de Jesus St., Caloocan City | P5.0M | 10/31/2007 |
| – Dahlia cor. Lilac St., Brgy. Fairview, QC | P5.0M | 10/31/2007 |
| – A. Bonifacio Ave., Quezon City | P6.0M | 11/15/2007 |
| – Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna | P5.0M | 10/31/2007 |
| – Rizal St., Sorsogon City, Sorsogon | P4.5M | 10/31/2007 |
| – Candon, Ilocos Sur | P5.5M | 11/15/2007 |
| – Talavera, Nueva Ecija | P4.0M | 11/15/2007 |

Note: Above capital requirement will be used for actual station operations. No up-front money will be paid to Petron. Applicants MUST meet the following criteria:

1. Has the required capitalization corresponding to the station applied for
2. Can operate the station on full time basis
3. Not existing dealers of competitive oil companies

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply. Preferable if husband and wife team.

Please secure the prescribed application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation, Jesus Street, Pandacan, Manila. For details, kindly get in touch with Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 loc. 282. Please submit the original copy of the duly-accomplished Dealership Application Form, complete with all relevant information, photo and supporting documents (i.e., to substantiate the amount of free cash and assets indicated therein) not later than 5:00 pm of the dates above. The supporting documents can include (i.e., as applicable) original copies of bank certifications and statements of account as well as duplicate copies of TCT's, vehicle registrations, passbooks, etc. The original copies of duplicate documents must be presented upon submission of the application form for authentication purposes. **Only complete submissions shall be accepted.**

## PHILSSA & WORLD BANK
UPSURGE Project

### PARTNERSHIP OF PHILIPPINE SUPPORT SERVICE AGENCIES
### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, Inc. (PHILSSA) has received a grant from the Japan Social Development Fund and the World Bank for the project, "URBAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE UPLIFTMENT, RENEWAL, GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERMENT (UPSURGE)," and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultant services.

PHILSSA would like to request for a proposal to conduct financial audit for its project. Interested organizations shall possess the following minimum requirements:

a. Has legal personality and legitimate track record as an accounting firm;
b. Has established quality control on audit documentation and procedure;
c. Has experience in performing fund audit for Non-government Organizations and other entities with similar set-up; and
d. Has capacity to perform the professional services required herein.

The project duration will be for a period of three (3) years.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition). PHILSSA-NPMO shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted Expressions of Interest and have been determined as eligible. The shortlist shall comprise six (6) firms.

Interested organizations may obtain the prequalification documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents is on **November 19, 2007, Monday, 5:00PM** at the address below.

**Ms. Anna Marie A. Karaos**
Project Director, National Project Management Office (NPMO)
Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies
3/F Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex,
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: (02)426-4328/ 426-0811
Fax No.: (02)426-4327
Email: philssawb@gmail.com

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2007)

## Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project/Brief Description | Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of Breathing Apparatus per BSP specifications consisting of the following:<br>One (1) unit - Breathing Air Compressor, High Pressure<br>One (1) set - Airline equipment for two (2) users<br>Six (6) sets - Self-contained Breathing Apparatus, 30 minutes rated |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | P3,500,000.00 |
| Delivery Period/Installation/ Commissioning and Testing | Delivery of the unit shall be within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order;<br>Installation shall be within five (5) working days after receipt of Notice to Proceed; and<br>Commissioning and testing shall be within four (4) weeks after the complete installation of the unit. |

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed from Y2002 to present with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows

| Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | Starting 22 October 2007; not later than 2:00 PM |
| 2. Pre-bid Conference | 16 November 2007; 2:30 PM; Rm. MR2A |
| 3. Opening of Bids | 04 December 2007; 2:00 PM; Rm. MR2A |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003 |
| 5. Post-qualification | |
| 6. Notice of Award | |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,750.00.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 21, 2007)

JOB Market
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INQUIRER
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# People, Events & Products

## Yakult takes Probiotics nationwide

NOW ON ITS FOURTH YEAR, "MABUBUTING BAKTIRYA Para Sa Sigurado Ka Tiyan" the Yakult Probiotics Comprehensive School Program (CSP) takes it a notch higher by expanding its coverage nationwide.

The six-year program, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Mary Lindbert International (MLB), is being implemented in public and private schools in the National Capital Region, Region III and Region IV-A. It now includes more schools in the Visayas and Mindanao Regions.

The multi-awarded CSP educates and creates awareness on the importance of the new lifestyle science of Probiotics in achieving a healthy digestive system and a healthy body to grades 1 and 2 pupils.

Apart from giving learning aids, students are treated to regular school interactive tours and the annual hands-on competition – the Parol Making Contest with the theme, Paskong Yakult, Paskong Pinoy. The contest is open to all schools within the participating regions. The winning lanterns are proudly displayed at the Yakult University in Japan.

The Mabubuting Baktirya Para Sa Sigurado Ka Tiyan Probiotics Comprehensive School Program is Yakult's way of sharing with the youth it's success in sustained market leadership since its introduction in this country as a pioneer in Probiotics through the integration of the importance of the Lactobacilli Shirota Strain in the daily diet of the Filipinos.

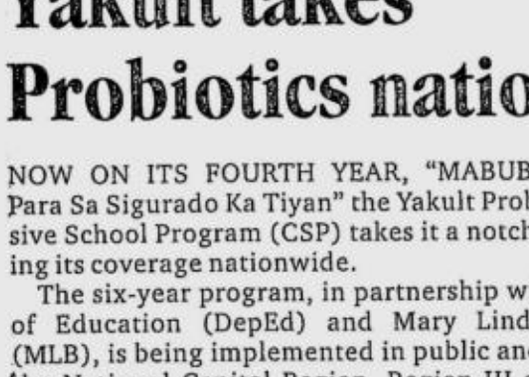
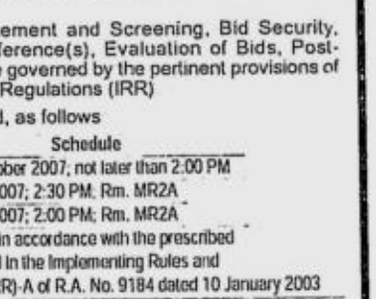


PHOTO shows: Mary Lindbert consultant Dr. Cora Santiago, Yakult Philippines director Michael Dy Sun Ong, Councilor Mabel Sunga Acosta, Matina CES OIC Elsa Pineda and DepEd Region XI Division Values Supervisor Lori Serrano at the program demonstration in Davao City

## ProductFiles

### Photoline Photography Week

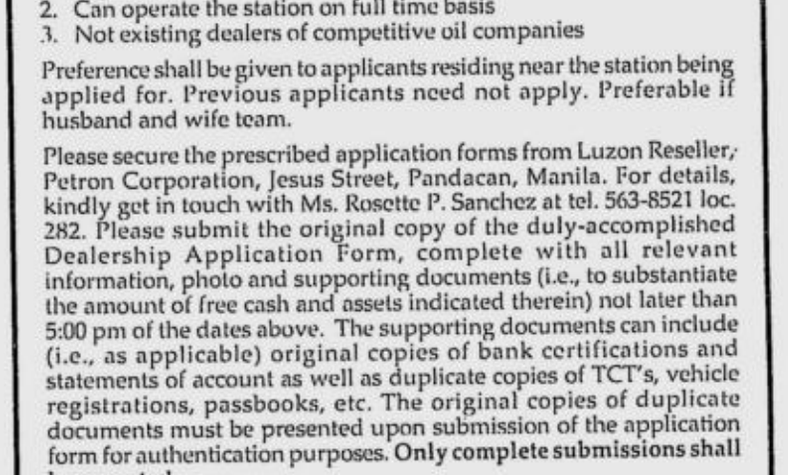
THE PHOTOLINE PHOTOGRAphy Week was recently held at the Robinsons MetroEast Mall. Aside from a Photo Exhibit by the Nayon Photography Club, the latest digital cameras and accessories were also featured during the event. A Free Photography seminar was also conducted The talk included proper lighting and camera settings plus tips on camera maintenance. Participants were given free digital printing coupons so that they could experience Photoline's superior quality prints. Photoline services range from digital printing, studio shots and




ID photos. Professional Photographers can avail of their special wholesale printing rates by inquiring at Hotline 0917-5384420. All stores also carry a full line of digital cameras at amazingly low prices. Customers can avail of the free items with each camera purchased.

### Indulge without the guilt with Nova and Wendy's

NOVA SUMMER SALAD, THE LATEST ADDItion to Nova's line of multi-grain snacks is guaranteed to be a fun yet healthy escape from all your snacking inhibitions. Made from four wholesome grains namely corn, wheat, rice and oats, each crispy and distinct bite provides the body with all the benefits of a multi-grain diet. To further advocate this healthy lifestyle, Nova ties up with one of the most popular fast food chains in the Philippines - Wendy's Hamburgers. Take your pick from any of Wendy's fresh and crisp Salad Sensation items, such as their creamy Macaroni, crispy Taco, tangy Mandarin Chicken, scrumptious Chicken Caesar and fresh Garden Mix, to be entitled to a free Nova Summer Salad pack. With this nutritious tandem in store, it'll be a sure hit among health enthusiasts. Promo runs from Oct. 1 to Nov. 14 only, so hurry! Replace that same old tiring line of "Watch what you eat" with "Have as much as you want!" with the Nova Summer Salad - Wendy's Salad Sensations duo. Your body might even thank you for indulging this time!



### 'YOU COULD BE THE NEXT RAYBAN ROCK STAR'

The Philippine Daily Inquirer recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Branded Lifestyle Inc, distributor of RayBan in the Philippines to launch 'You Could be the Next RayBan Rock Star.' Present during the signing are Pepito Olarte, VP for advertising of PDI, Rene Reinoso, SVP for sales and marketing, PDI, Mylene De Jesus, sales officer, PDI, Lal Gopwani, VP of Branded Lifestyle, and Devi Leano, assistant general manager of Branded Lifestyle.

### UNAHCO BOOTH AT 2007 AGRILINK

Inspired by the Ifugao house, a symbol of Filipino ingenuity characterized by its durability and strength, the Unahco (Univet Nutrition and Animal Healthcare Company) booth was dubbed as the most insightful and entertaining place at the 2007 Agrilink at the World Trade Center. Designed by 2005 Architecture No. 1 board passer Niño Ramores, landscaped by My Mother's Garden and implemented by Brandpartner Inc

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Customer Care Representatives - *Semi-Technical Support*
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Recruitment Officer

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Technical Customer Care Representatives
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Operations Manager - *Technical Account*
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Recruitment Officer
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Recruitment Associates (*project based*)
HR Associate (*project based*)
OJTs (*Majors in Mass Communication, Advertising, Media or Psychology*)

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* Operations Managers - *Financial Service account*
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* SELECTED ACCOUNTS ONLY

CATCH US ON THESE DATES FOR OUR JOB FAIRS:
All J Bldg, near SM Bacoor, Cavite: Oct. 22
Parklane Hotel - Cebu: Oct. 22 - 23
Robinson's Galleria: Oct. 29 - 30
MarketMarket, Taguig: Nov. 14 - 15
SM City Manila: Nov. 23 - 24

*Applicants can come in casual attire from August - October.

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Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02) 758-1558

CEBU BANAWA OFFICE
R. Arcenas St., Arcenas Estate, Banawa Hills, Cebu City
(032) 416-5810

CEBU ASIATOWN IT PARK OFFICE
11/F i2 Bldg. Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City
(032) 411 - 9200

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
2/F Diliman Commercial Center, #46 Don Mariano Marcos Ave. Diliman, Quezon City
(02) 756-7019

MAKATI OFFICE
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(02) 792 - 3182

ORTIGAS OFFICE
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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## hinge inquirer PUBLICATIONS

a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of:

### INTERACTIVE MANAGER
***Qualifications:***
- A graduate of a 4-year communications course (or related degree) from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P.
- Between 23 to 32 years old.
- Equipped with exceptional communication skills in both written and spoken English and Filipino.
- Organized, resourceful and creative.
- Willing to work overtime
- Preferably with experience in digital content production and distribution.

### EDITORIAL MANAGER
***Qualifications:***
- Course (or related degree) from a reputable school such as UP, UST, La Salle, Ateneo or UA&P.
- Equipped with exceptional communication skills in written and spoken English and Filipino; computer literate; has adequate presentation skills.
- Leadership and management skills are a must.
- One-two years experience in magazine production required.
- Organized, resourceful, confident and creative.
- Able to work under minimal supervision; willing to work overtime.

### WEB ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT/ENCODER
***Qualifications:***
- Knowledgeable in HTML
- Knowledgeable in PHP (programming language)
- Knowledgeable in Linux-based systems (server-side programming)
- Must be able to install and update online PHP programs such as Wordpress (blog software) and PHPBB (forum software)
- First-hand experience in creating websites is a plus (personal page or otherwise)
- Basic Adobe Photoshop skills

### GRAPHIC ARTISTS
***Qualifications:***
- College graduate of a computer and/or designing course. Preferably with publication layout background.
- Exceptional designing skills
- Organized, resourceful, creative
- Willing to work overtime and thrives under pressure.

### MARKETING ASSISTANT
***Qualifications:***
- College Graduate, Major in Marketing, Advertising, or Mass Communication.
- Knowledge on marketing concepts.
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Knowledge of basic design software applications an advantage. (Photoshop, InDesign)
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills.

### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
***Qualifications:***
- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course.
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work.
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication.

### CIRCULATION MANAGER
***Qualifications:***
- College Graduate,Major in Management, Economics or Marketing.
- Preferably with at least five (5) years experience in Circulation with three (3) years managerial experience.
- Knowledge in product, price, distribution and promotion strategies.
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organization skills.

**Interested applicants may send their resumes to any of the ff: prod_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph, ilimbo@inquirer.com.ph, spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph, hrd@hip.ph or bring their resume, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tel Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848**

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## VALUELINE

**The Leading IT Security and Solutions provider in the Philippines**
Is Currently looking for a dynamic individual with strong passion in information technology to join our team

### Sales Executive
- Graduate of Sales or Marketing, Management from reputable school
- Female with pleasing personality
- Outstanding Communication skills and negotiation Skills

### Software Engineer
- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Male/Female
- Knowledge in installing different software's and knowledge in PC assembly and troubleshooting
- Knowledge in Linux is an advantage

### Sales Manager
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management or equivalent from reputable school
- Male/Female
- Outstanding Communication skills
- Should have very good communication, business writing and selling skills
- Willing to be relocated in Makati or Quezon City

### Analyst/Programmer
- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Male/Female
- Advance Knowledge in Visual Studio, PHP, ASP, Java, HTML, XMA, CSS, Crystal Report, MySQL, SQL, MS ACCESS
- Knowledge in PC assembly and troubleshooting. Knowledge in Linux is an advantage
- Willing to work extended hours

### Marketing Manager
- Graduate of Business/ Marketing or equivalent. Related Professional Training, Certification or Membership in Marketing Planning & Management
- Male/Female
- Excellent Leadership skills
- Excellent Strategic skills (exploration, development, implementation and monitoring)
- Outstanding Marketing Management (Products, Brand, Communication, Pricing, Distribution etc)
- Outstanding People Management ability
- Outstanding Negotiation skills.
- Willing to be relocated in Makati or Quezon City

### Accountant
- Must be Certified Public Accountant
- Preferably Supervisor / 3 yrs. & up. handled taxation
- Knowledge in Accounting Software
- Excellent communication & decision making skills
- Advance knowledge in the use of financial software application
- High systematic & organized
- Willing to work extended hours
- With experience in doing different accounting functions
- Must have knowledge in corporate taxation & relevance
- Can be trusted

### Human Resources Manager / HR Assistant
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology or equivalent
- Required skill(s): Recruitment, Training, Labor Relations
- Preferred skill(s): Organizational Development
- Experience as an HR Manager with a focus on Career Development is required
- Proven communication effectiveness – verbal, non verbal, written etc. – in corporate settings
- Strong computer literacy and software skills
- Must be able to work autonomously with minimal instruction, guidance or supervision on standard performance analyses and projects

### Service Coordinator
- Graduate of Computer Science, Management Science or its equivalent from reputable schools
- Female
- Good Communication Skills and with pleasing personality
- Knowledge in handling client calls and request
- Computer literate
- Knowledge in pre-sales and post-sales support
- Willing to work extended hours

*Please submit your resume to*

**Valueline Systems and Solutions Corporation**
2nd Flr. I&I. Bldg., #23 Matalino St., Central District Diliman, Quezon city
Tel. No.: 925-2938; 925-2223
Makati Office
Unit 805, 8th Flr., Cityland Herrera Tower, #98 V.A. Rufino Cor. Valero St., Saleedo Vill., Makati City
Tel. No.: 8450584; 7532654
or email at hazel.pale@valueline.com.ph; hr@valueline.com.ph

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- Monitors customer receivable subsidiary records
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- Regularly reconciles/aligns with BDM on the status of customer receivables
- Obtains from BDM supporting documents for deductions
- Partners with BDM on obtaining/reconciling records with customers
- Proposes adjustments to the records
- High possibility of doing fieldwork to engage with BDMs and customers outside Manila
- Ensures solid A/R documentations

**Requirements:**
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Accounting.
- At least 6 months of working experience in A/R analysis and reconciliation; preferably with exposures to dealing with salesmen
- Work experience preferably from consumer goods company
- Knows MS Excel
- Communicates well and ability to make A/R reports
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and to travel provincial
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Preferably 1-4 Yrs Experienced Employees specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent
- 20 position available

Interested applicants may send their RESUMÉ to:
r.amil@corpexecsearch.com
Tel: (02) 7506138 Fax: (02) 7517305 . Website: www.corpexecsearch.com
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- Preferably w/ experience in HR functions

### 20 PROJECT ENGINEERS
- Male/Female, 20-30 Yrs. Old, Board Passer
- Graduate of BSECE, BSEE, BSCE &BSME
- Preferably with technical work exp in a telecom firm and exposure in project sites
- With driving skills, preferably with driver's license

### 10 PROJ. REVENUE ANALYSTS
- Male / Female, not more than 30 years old
- Grad of BS Comp Science/Comp Engg/BSMath
- With experience in programming, SQL, IT, MS Access, Database

### 10 PRODUCT DEVT SPECIALISTS
- Graduate of BSECE from reputable schools
- Male/Female, not more than 30 yrs. Old & with pleasing personality

### 10 PROJECT SECRETARIES
- College graduate, not more than 30 yrs. old
- With related work exp. & computer literate
- Smart & pleasing personality

Kindly apply in person at 4/F Northridge Plaza #12 Congressional Ave., QC.(in front of Cherry Foodarama)
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02-638-9341

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## URGENTLY NEEDED!

### ACCOUNTING OFFICER/MANAGER
(SME Manufacturing Company)
- ☑ CPA or work equivalent
- ☑ Not more than 30 years old
- ☑ Male/Female, preferably single
- ☑ With 3 years experience in general accounting & auditing
- ☑ Highly organized, has leadership skills
- ☑ Can work with minimum supervision

### MARKETING MANAGER
(Start-Up Low-Cost Housing Components Manufacturer & Home Builder)
- ☑ Male/Female
- ☑ Not more than 35 years old
- ☑ With 3 yrs. experience in the housing industry
- ☑ With MBA, Has entrepreneurial skills

Send your resume with details of your work experience and academic records to **transaslawood@yahoo.com.ph** or personally submit to #1 North Sikap St., Plainview Subdivision, Mandaluyong City

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
**PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER**
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

### DIVISION CHIEF II

**EDUCATION** : Bachelor of Science in Nutritionist Dietetics
**EXPERIENCE** : 3 years relevant experience, 2 years in a supervisory level
**TRAINING** : 16 hours relevant training
**ELIGIBILITY** : RA 1080 (Nutritionist Dietetics Board)

*REQUIREMENTS:*
- Application Letter Addressed to Julius A. Lecciones, M.D., MHSA, MPM; Executive Director
- Bio-data/Resumé with 2x2 ID Picture
- Copy of Certificate of Eligibility/Board Rating
- Copy of Certificate of Employment

*PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:*
**The Director's Office**
**Phil. Children's Medical Center**
**Quezon Avenue, Quezon City**

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## HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
*Vivre debout*

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 2007

Handicap International is an international NGO created in 1982 with headquarters in France. Through its projects and lobbying/advocacy work in more than 50 countries, Handicap International fights to restore the autonomy of persons in disabling situations.

Our office needs to recruit **Logistics Officer (M/F)**

**Position: Logistics Officer**

**Number: 1**

**Major Duties and Responsibilities**

The candidate will be responsible for the logistics department at projects and capital levels. He/she will be under the direct supervision of the Program Administrator.He/she has to show proven expertise in:
- Reporting on strategic logistics issues
- Supply chain (process on supply/suppliers, stocks, freight and equipment management)
- Mechanics
- Maintenance of technical equipment
- Implementation and monitoring of internal security rules

**Qualification and skills (minimum requirements)**

Diploma in Purchase and supply management (or related diploma) or Diploma in Civil Engineering

**Other requirements**

Minimum of 3 years work experience in a similar position
Fluent English written and spoken
Motivation to work within a team in an INGO (former experience is an advantage)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Duty Station** | He/she will be based in Manila with frequent travels to the field (Davao, Cagayan, Cotabato, Hilwal) for coordination purposes. |
| **Salary** | As per the organizational salary scale; depending on experience and qualifications. |
| **Terms of employment** | Contract-based |
| **Closing date** | October 30, 2007 |

Qualified applicants are invited to send their cover letter and CV supporting documents (including contact of three references) to: **Handicap International, # 42 Ponce Street, San Lorenzo Village, 1223 Makati City, Philippines, or by Email to mla-ofc@handicapinternational.ph**

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**WEB DEVELOPERS** experienced with PHP, Perl, Python and SQL
**WINDOWS DEVELOPERS** familiar with C++, SQL and XML
• Must be able to work via internet 40hrs. a week •
• Preferably a resident of Parañaque •

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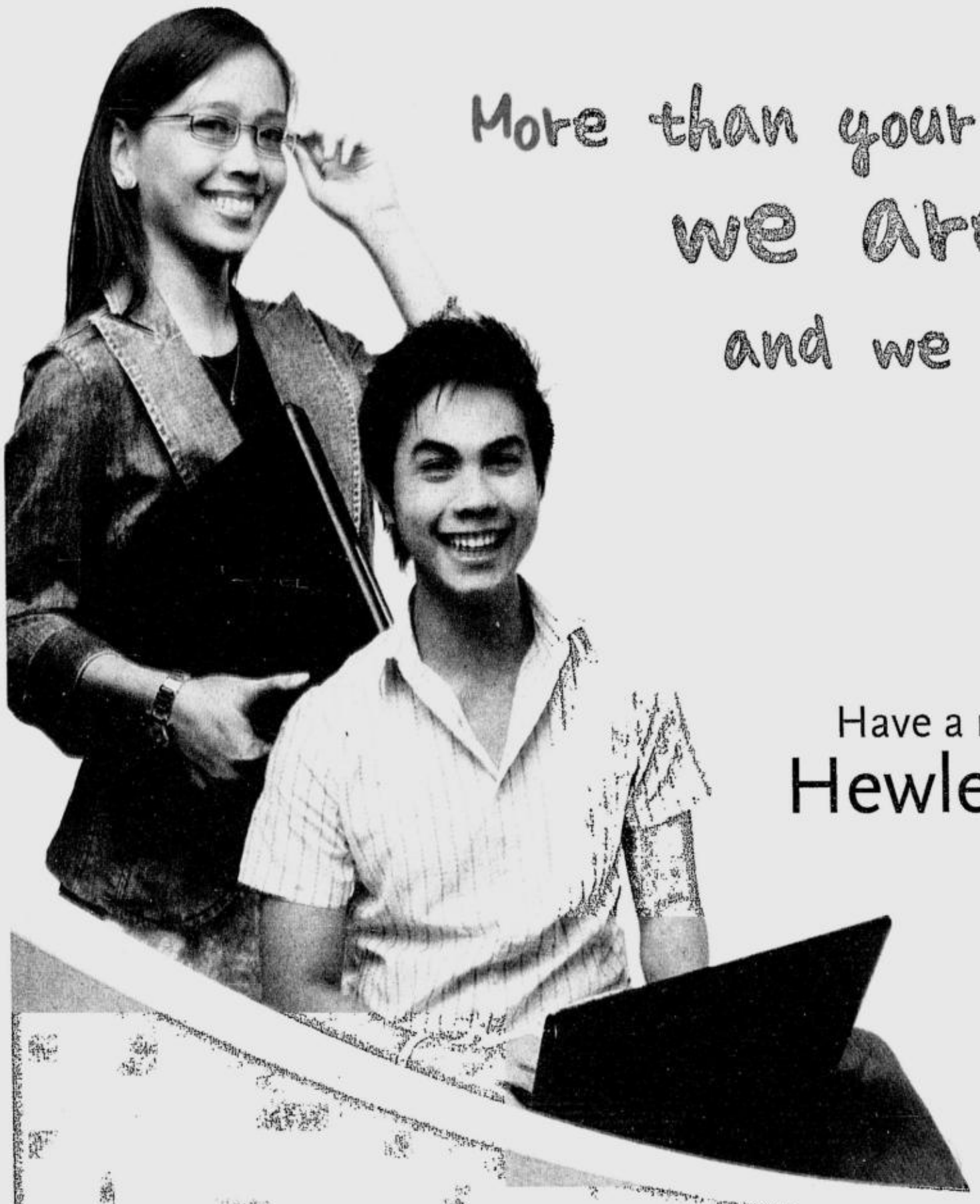

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# Hewlett-Packard (HP)
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*(MANILA PAY RATES WILL APPLY)*

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- Preferably graduates of any four year course
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- Working knowledge of desktop PC and peripheral devices
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- With basic computer troubleshooting skills (hardware, software, networking, and peripherals)

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- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Trainer
- Accent and Conversational English (ACE) Coaches
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Training Supervisor
- Training Coordinator
- Technical Trainer
- Payroll Specialists
- Senior Team Leader
- Business Communication Specialist
- Operations Support Center (OSC) Specialist
- Site Nurses

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## Office Staff

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- College graduate
- Computer literate (MSWord, Excel)
- Good communication skills
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision and exercise good judgement
- Excellent people skills
- Highly motivated
- With work experience a plus factor

## Accounting Assistant

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Accounting graduate
- With basic knowledge in bookkeeping and preparation of financial statements
- Computer literate and knowledge in Quickbooks application a plus
- Knowledge / exposure to basic Government Taxes preferred
- Good communication skills
- Able to work independently with minimal supervision and exercise good judgement
- Excellent people skills
- Highly motivated

Send your application with the following documents to raida.tadena@calvosinsurance.com :

- copy of transcript of records
- curriculum vitae with picture and character references

**Note:** Deadline for submission of application is on **Oct. 24, 2007**. Pre-screened applicants will be interviewed on Oct. 27 (Sat) and 28 (Sun), 2007 at Unit 6-O Vernida 1 Condo., Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**

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5. with pleasing personality

**You will receive:**

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**Makati City**

On October 22 and 23 at 10AM to 4 PM
Look for Mr. Edwin J. Babiano

**A PRESTIGIOUS ARCHITECTURAL FIRM WILLIAM V COSCOLLUELA AND ASSOCIATES IS NOW IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING**

- **10-SENIOR PROJECT ARCHITECTS** WITH AT LEAST (10) YEARS COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN MIX USE DEVELOPMENTS
- **10-JUNIOR PROJECT ARCHITECTS** WITH (5) YEARS EXPERIENCE
- **5-CAD OPERATORS** WITH AT LEAST (3) YEARS EXPERIENCE

Please send your resumé to wvc@wvcoscolluela.com

## JOB VACANCY

A Financing Company is looking for aggressive & goal oriented individuals to fill the job vacancies in our branches:

**Binondo, Caloocan, Makati, Greenhills, Calamba & Cavite**

**ACCOUNTING STAFF**
**MARKETING STAFF**
**LEGAL & COLLECTION STAFF**
**MOTORIZED LEGAL & COLLECTION STAFF**
**MOTORIZED C.I. & COLLT'N STAFF** (will be assigned at Bacoor, Cavite)

- Male/Female, between 21-26 years of age;
- W/ pleasing personality & good moral character;
- Graduate of a 4 or 2-year course;
- Goal oriented with strong desire to succeed;
- Preferably a nearby resident of the branch.

Please submit your resumé w/ latest 2x2 picture to:
**PUREGOLD FINANCE, INC.**
**PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**
2nd Flr. Tabacalera Bldg. I, # 900 N. Romualdez St.,
Look for **Fhe** at Tel. Nos. 522-8801 to 04 • 522-2312

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

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**ACCOUNTANT**
Female, between 22 to 35 years old. Accounting graduate, CPA preferred. Knowledge in financial reporting/ financial statements, familiar with regulatory requirements (SEC/BIR/SSS/PAG-IBIG/PHILHEALTH). Computer literate (Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint). Must have good administrative and communication skills, highly organized, systematic, can multi-task, flexible, team player and can work under pressure. Preferably CPA

**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**
Female, between 20 to 30 years old. Accounting graduate. Knowledge in financial reporting/financial statements, familiar with regulatory requirements (SEC/BIR/SSS/PAG-IBIG/PHILHEALTH). Computer literate (Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint). Must have good communication skills, highly organized, systematic, can multi-task, flexible, team player and can work under pressure

**SECRETARY**
Female, between 25 to 32 years old. Graduate of a related course. Excellent English written/verbal communication skills. Computer literate (Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint). Must have good communication skills, highly organized, systematic, can multi-task, flexible, team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work mall hours.

**SALES PERSONNEL**
Male/Female. 23 to 30 years old. Professional appearance w/ pleasing personality. Proficient in written/verbal English. Computer literate (Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint). College graduate/level. Interested in telecoms products. Willing to be assigned in any of the company's branches within Metro Manila and willing to work mall hours.

**ACCOUNTING CLERKS**
Female 22 to 28 years old. Computer literate. College graduate/level of related course. Must have good communication skills, highly organized, systematic, can multi-task, flexible, team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work mall hours

EMAIL RESUMÉ w/ 2x2 colored photo to: **gmll_greenbelt@yahoo.com.ph**
Or Submit To: Globotel. G/F Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City. 8880104-05

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## Deutsche Bank Group Recruitment Fair 25-26 October 2007

Deutsche Bank is committed to being the best financial services provider in the world and we are looking for talented people to take us there.

As we continue our drive towards a brighter future and increased growth globally, we have outstanding opportunities in the Philippines for Accountants, Financial Analysts, Economists, SAP and other IT Specialists, who share our vision to be part of our award winning team.

Interested applicants are invited to bring their resumes to our Recruitment Fair for a face-to-face interview with one of our HR representatives.

**Date** : 25th - 26th October 2007
**Time** : 9.00 am - 7.00 pm
**Location** : 5/F Tower Two, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

If you are unable to attend our Recruitment Fair, you can still apply for a position by sending your resume via email to **dksmanila.recruitment@db.com** or by post to: Human Resources Department, Deutsche Bank Group, 38/F Tower One, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

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**CASEDATA Philippines**, a multinational company and a top provider of document process management services and technology to international clients, law firms, corporations and the public sector, is currently looking for candidates for the following positions.

**REGIONAL CONTROLLER**

- This senior level position provides leadership and support in managing the day to day accounting operations of a US based business services company. This person maintains a strong set of internal controls to comply with the accounting policies and ensures accurate internal & external recording and reporting of financial transactions.

**Required Qualifications:**
- 15 years of financial and accounting experience, preferably with at least five years at a Big-4 CPA firm and private accounting experience, with an emphasis in service industry.
- A certified public accountant license or similar international certification is required
- It is vital that this individual possesses solid technical skills to ensure that all financial transactions are executed and documented in accordance with US GAAP
- He or she must take-charge, be energetic, have a strong work ethic and the ability to work independently in a vibrant, fast-paced, entrepreneurial environment, and achieve necessary results in a timely manner.
- This successful candidate must have superior leadership and management skills, strong oral and written communication skills and a professional demeanor and polished presence.
- Service industry in a BPO environment and/or international US based entity accounting & management experience a plus
- Proficient in Word, Excel and Presentation Software
- ERP and mainframe accounting package knowledge preferred

**Basic Qualifications:**
- Must be able to use good judgment, be analytical and have strong decision making skills
- Excellent planning and organizational skills
- Abilily to motivate, coach, and direct others
- Ability to direct several major projects simultaneously while working under pressure and meeting deadlines

**ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (General Accounting)**

- The General Accounts Supervisor is responsible for preparing financial analysis reports to Management. This person supervises the accounting activities relating to Management reports and financial statements

**ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (Accounts Payable)**

- The Accounts Payable Supervisor (Payments Processing) is responsible for the day-to-day processing of Accounts Payable disbursements. This person provides guidance to the Accounts Payable team to ensure the accurate and timely payments to vendors and employees and assures compliance with company policies and procedures.

**PAYROLL SUPERVISOR**

- The Payroll Supervisor oversees the day-to-day operations of the company's payroll process. This person works effectively to ensure timely payroll processing and tax liabilities, investigates discrepancies and provides direction to Payroll staff

**STAFF ACCOUNTANTS**

- The Staff Accountant is responsible for providing financial analysis reports to management. This position prepares financial statements and journal entries.

**General Requirements:**
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting
- At least 5 years of financial and/or accounting experience with a minimum of three years in supervisory capacity
- Work experience in a service industry and/or international finance is a plus.
- Knowledge in Infinium/AS400 is preferred

**Basic Qualifications:**
- Ability to communicate with clients.
- Ability to handle difficult, clients, employees and situations
- Ability to motivate, coach and direct others.
- Ability to manage several projects simultaneously
- Ability to understand visual processes, interprot data and translate into written word
- Advanced ability to ensure that quality and production standards are met.
- Advanced customer service skills, professional attitude and appearance
- Advanced organizational, administrative, record keeping and time management skills
- Creative thinking and performance.
- Excellent presentation and interpersonal skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Strong team approach to business
- Successful track record in motivating, coaching and managing a staff

**IT INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER**

- The IT Engineer shall be responsible for the local network and workstation/desktop management as well as maintenance of the data and voice connectivity.
- Relevant work experience required

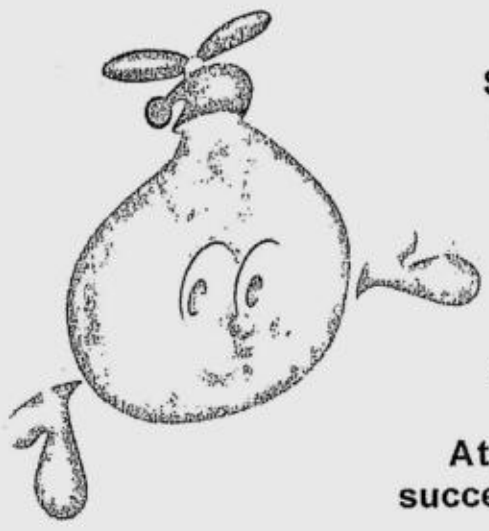
Interested individuals may send their updated CV with 2x2 picture at recruitment@casedata.ph, or to

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
CaseData Philippines
30F ExportBank Plaza Building,
Sen. Gil Puyat corner Chino Roces Avenues
Makati City 1230

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**Maynilad Water Services, Inc. --- a company owned by the consortium of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, a subsidiary of First Pacific Company (PLDT/SMART) and DMCI Holdings, Inc., one of the biggest names in property, infrastructure, mining and water utilities --- is in need of dynamic young men and women for its**

## CADET ENGINEERS TRAINING PROGRAM



**Successful applicants will undergo four months of intensive training before deployment to various departments in our expanding operations.**

**We offer great career opportunities in the field of water treatment & distribution and sewerage & sanitation.**

**Attractive compensation package awaits successful candidates.**

**Applicants should be:**

- **Graduates of CE/ SE/ ME/ EE/ ChE/ ECE; those with license have a decided advantage**
- **Not more than 25 years old**
- **Computer literate**
- **Performance driven**
- **Customer service oriented**

**You can submit your resume to the Personnel Services Department, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City or send it thru e-mail at clsan@mayniladwater. com.ph or sof@mayniladwater.com.ph. You may also visit us at our web site at http://www.mayniladwater.com.ph**

**MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.**
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We are inviting top-caliber candidates to join our team as...

## Internal Auditors

They will assist Senior Auditors in completing internal audit, fraud audit, forensic audit, and technology risk management engagements for corporate clients in various industries.

- A Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Internal Auditor, or a Certified Information Systems Auditor
- At least one year of work experience in external audit or internal audit
- Strong command of written and oral English
- Pleasing personality and excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to deal with people at different levels of position

## HR Director

He or she will exercise overall management of the company's recruitment and selection, staff relations, compensation and benefits administration, training management, and corporate communication.

- Significant managerial experience in all aspects of personnel management
- Superior command of written and oral English
- Pleasing personality and excellent interpersonal skills
- Persuasive presentation skills
- Ability to deal with people at different levels of position

We invite you to bring, fax, e-mail, or mail your resumé and 2x2 photograph to:

**Human Resources**
**Punongbayan & Araullo**
**12th Floor, National Life Insurance Building**
**6762 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**
**Tel: +63 2 864-0741 local 723**
**Fax: +63 2 814-0589**
**E-mail: hr@pna.ph**

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Filinvest has projects in key areas like **Alabang, Quezon City, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Bulacan.** In line with our expansion program, we need high-caliber candidates like you for the following positions.

**SALES MANAGERS (Code: MB-07 SM)**

- 25-45 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably from top colleges and universities
- Excellent communication, negotiation and leadership skills
- At least 2 years management experience preferably in real estate/retail industry

**SALES CONSULTANTS (Code: MB-07 SC)**

- 21-35 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably from top colleges and universities
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Experience in real estate/consumer sales is an advantage
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

**SALES MANAGERS for Commercial Lots (Code: MB-07 SMCL)**

- Male or Female, 30-45 years old
- South based — Familiar with Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Calabarzon areas
- Presentable and confident with good communication, presentation and negotiation skills
- With at least 2 to 3 years sales management experience in administering real estate selling units or managing real estate brokers, or handling/managing real estate customer accounts and other real estate related industries

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- ✓ Financial strength and stability of Filinvest
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- ✓ Career advancement
- ✓ Extensive training

**Applicants may bring their resumes, transcript of records and 2x2 pictures to:**

HR Department Filinvest Alabang, Inc.
Marketing Office and Exhibit Centre, Corporate Ave.,
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No.: 809-6517 local 214
look for **GIAN MENDOZA**

Filinvest Land, Inc. 173 P. Gomez St. San Juan City
Tel. No.: 727-0431 local 213
look for **MARICHELLE SALANGUIT**

you may also email your resume to
**recruitment@filinvestcorpcity.com**

*(Please indicate position applied for, desired work location and job code on the cover letter or in the "Subject" of your email.)*

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
In the No.1 **QUICK SERVICE RESTAURANT**

**MANAGEMENT TRAINEES** (newly grads are welcome)
**ASST. MANAGERS/STORE MANAGERS** (must have 3 years equivalent supervisory/managerial experience)

**Must be a GRADUATE of any 4 -year Bachelor's Degree, with impressive scholastic records; possesses very good communication, leadership and interpersonal skills; willing to work on shifting/flexible schedules; must be dynamic and a "manager" material and willing to undergo rigid training.**

Email your resumé with picture to **recruitment4fastfood@yahoo.com** for evaluation.

For a quick response, text your Full name, age, degree/course finished, school, preferred place of assignment to 09214745232 (ex. Gabriel Lopez, 24, BS Management, UST, Q.C.)

* Urgent vacancies in the area of Manila, Quezon City, Rizal, Laguna, Pampanga, Cavite, Olongapo, Pangasinan, Bataan.
** We are also accepting applications for North & South Luzon, Palawan & Bicol Region.
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**At B&M Global Services Manila we offer you a chance to connect with a global network of professionals who are among the best at what they do. We are a forerunner in captive outsourcing services in the Philippines, with an operation that continues to expand in response to emerging opportunities in legal outsourcing. Our global marketing & communications team in Manila is currently looking for:**

### Marketing Communications Specialists

The person hired will draft copy for the Firm's promotional materials in multiple formats, including print, web and electronic media. He/she will be responsible for the completion of ad hoc special projects, and respond to document editing and proofing requests. He/she will also assist in developing and upholding marketing and communication standards at the global, regional and local levels.

He/she must have the following credentials:

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing, Communications, Journalism or English
- Minimum of 3 years experience in communications, marketing or public relations and in writing business communications in a journalistic style
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English
- Advanced skills in information research and retrieval
- Advanced skills in Word and PowerPoint
- Highly organized and attentive to details
- Strong commitment to outstanding client service
- Experience working in legal or professional services environment preferred
- Ability to work with and communicate effectively with people from different cultures

**Interested applicants may send their resume to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com.**

B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., is a subsidiary of Baker & McKenzie International B.V., a support services provider to Baker & McKenzie International, a Swiss Verein of member law firms around the world. Neither B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., nor Baker & McKenzie International B.V., is engaged in the practice of law.

## FUJITSU

### FUJITSU COMPUTER PRODUCTS CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

### GENERAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY MANAGER

He will oversee General Manager's function in Safety and Health, and OHSAS Certification. Reporting directly to the VP, HR and General Affairs, the candidate will be mainly responsible for planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling the activities of General Affairs and Safety to ensure the preservation of life and property as well as provide the necessary services to support the organizations' operations including services such as housekeeping, shuttle bus, cars, messengerial, water distribution, scrap and garbage management and canteen.

The preferred candidate is one who has at least 5 years similar experience preferably from Semi-conductor/Electronics Company. He should possess a strong leadership and good communication skills. Candidates should be male, graduate of any engineering course.

The values of fairness, honesty, integrity, creativity and resourcefulness are essential to the job. The successful candidate can look forward to opportunities for both professional and financial growth.

*Mail resumés to: The Vice-President, HR and General Affairs Department, Fujitsu Computer Products Corporation of the Philippines, SEPZ, Carmelray Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna or e-mail to:* ***weng@fcpp.fujitsu.com****. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.*



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**MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR EXPANSION AND GROWTH**

For positions listed below, kindly email your resumé to **philippinecorpjobs@peoplesupport.com** indicate position in the subject line.

**ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES**
Office Manager (Baguio)
Safety and Security Associate

**BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT**
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)
Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelt)

**FINANCE**
Accounting Assistant (Employee Transactions / Accounts Receivable)
Accounting Associate (Accounts Payable)
Accounting Associate (Financial Reporting and Analysis)
Financial Analyst
Payroll Specialist
Revenue Analyst
Risk Management Officer
Tax Analyst
Timekeeping Assistant (Cebu)
Timekeeping Officer

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
Corporate Recruitment Associate
Corporate Recruitment Officer
HR Assistant - Compensation and Benefits
HR Assistant – Recruitment (Baguio)
HR Associate – Compensation and Benefits (Cebu)
HR Associate – Employee Relations
HR Associate – Recruitment
Recruitment Director
Technical Recruiter (Manila / Cebu)

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
Business Continuity Planning Manager
Chief Information Security Officer
Consulting and Implementation Manager
Data Quality Manager
Database Administrator
Director for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning
HRMS Database Administrator
Implementation Analyst
Lead QA Tester
Reports Analyst / Developer
Senior Business Analyst
Senior Software Engineer
Server Systems Specialist (Cebu)

**TRAINING**
Career Development Trainer
Communication Trainer (Cebu)
Leadership Development Training Manager
Senior Management Development Trainer

**OPERATIONS**
Operations Manager for Technical Account (Cebu)
Team Supervisor for Technical Account (Cebu)
Transcription Editor (Cebu)

**WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT**
Realtime Analyst
Workforce Analyst

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HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

**Cebu City**
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday,
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

**Baguio City**
PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

**Davao City**
B-1 Luisa Avenue Square, Jacinto Extension
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HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

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We are currently in need of young, dynamic and highly skilled person to fill the position of:

### Regulatory and Product Support Coordinator

This job is responsible for, but not limited to: 1) planning, implementing and coordinating laboratory testing, formula qualification and setting of standards for assigned categories; 2) conducting studies and researches to establish and update product processing methods; 3) coordinating with the Bureau of Food and Drugs on all SCJ licenses and product registrations; 4) participating in the establishment of specifications and costings of RMs/ FGs for current, new, improved or substituted products; 6) extending technical support to different departments.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Graduate of BS Chemical Engineering, Chemistry or any related course
- At least 2 years related experience, preferably from a consumer or pharmaceutical company
- Product development background is an advantage
- Proficient in using MS Office Applications
- Good oral and written communication skills

Send your comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture not later than November 9, 2007 to:

**The Human Resources Department**
**SC JOHNSON AND SON, INC.**
6371 Estrella Street, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
or send through e-mail at: cslee@scj.com

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**HealthGov**
Strengthening Local Governance for Health

The **Strengthening Local Governance for Health (HealthGov) Project** is a USAID-funded project supporting the government's efforts to provide improved basic health services in partnership with over 550 local government units (LGUs) throughout the country.

HealthGov is in search of qualified team members for the following key positions:

**Financial Management and Planning Coordinator (2 positions) Code: FMPC 01**

**Responsibilities:**
The Coordinator will be based in one of the two regional offices (Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro) with extensive travel to other provinces in the region and provide technical assistance (TA) and training support. Specific responsibilities include:

- Provide capability building assistance to LGUs, ILHZs (Inter-Local Health Zones) and CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) in health finance, resource mobilization and participatory planning and budgeting;
- Prepare training modules and participate in training events for LGUs, health service providers and other local stakeholders;
- Mobilize LGU support for increased investment in basic health services;
- Identify and document best practices in LGU health planning, budgeting and financial management;
- Initiate, plan, monitor and document various activities that contribute to the attainment of the project's objectives.

**Qualifications:**

- Postgraduate degree in Business/Financial Management, Public Administration, or Social Sciences;
- A minimum of 5 years experience at the local government level and/or managing LGU support projects: experience in the health sector a strong advantage.
- Strong knowledge of local government planning, financial management and budgeting operations and regulations;
- Experience in capacity building and training activities;
- Experience in donor-funded projects (prior USAID project experience an advantage);
- Technical and managerial capabilities to support project implementation;
- Ability to function well in a dynamic environment and as part of a small team of dedicated experts.

Please send your application letter together with your curriculum vitae not later than **November 9, 2007** to:

e-mail: info2007healthgov@gmail.com
fax: (+632) 706-1419
mail: Chief of Party
HealthGov Project - RTI International
Lower Penthouse 3203-3204
Tycoon Centre Condominium
Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center
1605 Pasig City

RTI INTERNATIONAL

(Indicate the position code on the envelope or in the subject heading of your email).

---

# COOK

Wanted by

**BRITISH TRADE AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

**Eligibility :** Applicants must have:

- experience in Western cooking and formal entertaining
- appropriate qualification holder preferred, but not essential
- ability to work under pressure
- ability to work as a team with other members of staff
- good spoken English
- must be in good health
- must be trustworthy

**Remuneration and benefits :**

- **Basic salary :** NT$17000- 25000 (pesos 22000–32500 approx.) per month, depending on experience **PLUS**
  **Food allowance :** NT$4,000 (pesos 5,200 approx) per month
  **Bonus :** one and a half month's salary per year
  **Terminal gratuity :** one month's salary per one year of employment
- free accommodation of a good standard
- annual leave of 15 days per year (return airfare to Philippines paid) medical insurance

Applicants should send a full curriculum vitae and one photograph, together with reference details and **telephone contact number, by Thursday, 8 November 2007 to**

**Management Officer (Cook)**
**British Embassy**
**17th floor, LV Locsin Building**
**6752 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1226**

Only successful applicants will be notified and interviewed.

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**for Metro Manila and nearby Provinces.**

**Qualifications:**

1) College graduate, male or female.
2) With strong aptitude toward sales and customer relations. Likes field work and travelling. Result-oriented, systematic, and well organized.
3) Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and can create a good impression. Extrovert, but can work alone. Very pleasing personality.
4) Above average intelligence, self-motivated and can work without supervision.
5) Ambitious, highly motivated, aggressive, persistent, and hardworking, can drive & with valid driver's license.

**Send your detailed bio-data and recent photo (at least 2x2) to Personnel Dept., SMPC Bldg., 1308 P. Guevarra cor. E. Remigio Streets, Sta. Cruz, Manila. or email at : powerhousetmc@gmail.com Interviewees will be notified individually.**

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**HUMAN INTEGRATED RESOURCES EXPERTS, INC.**
Unit C RCS Townhomes II, Buencamino St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel Nos. 8425401; 8425276; 8427371; 8425528
Email address: hireteams@globelines.com.ph

We are in urgent need of the following positions:

**FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENT**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES** – Above average communication skills; Willing to work in shifting schedules; At least 2nd year college; 18 yrs. old and above; With basic computer skills.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES** – Must have good computer background in networking, hardware & software troubleshooting; Good in giving concise, clear and definite instructions.

(For the 2 positions above, applicants from different regions are welcome. Successful candidates from outside NCR will be provided lodging assistance during their first month of employment)

**MINING ENGINEER** – Licensed Mining Engineer; With at least 3 yrs. of work experience; Knowledge in mine planning; Exposure in an open pit mine operation is an advantage; Knowledge in Philippine mining laws and regulatory requirements; Able to source/evaluate mining equipment; With strong business acumen and management skills.

**MECHANICAL ENGINEER** – Licensed Mechanical Engineer; Preferably with at least 2 yrs. of work experience; Knowledge in heavy equipment operation; Exposure in quarry/ mine operation and/or logistics is an advantage; Able to source and evaluate heavy equipment; With strong business acumen and management skills; Computer literate.

**SALES ENGINEER** - Male/Female; 30 yrs. old & below; With 3-4 yrs experience in sales; With valid driver's license; Willing to be assigned in Calamba, Laguna

**FOR PROJECT EMPLOYMENT**

**ACCOUNTING CLERK** - Male/Female; Accounting graduate; Knowledge in different Accounting softwares preferred; Not more than 35 years old; With Accounting background

**DATA ENCODER** - Graduate of any four year Business/IT course; Male/Female; 21-30 yrs. old; Single; Computer literate; With good communication skills; Personable

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEER** – Male; 20-24 yrs. old; No experience required; Fresh college graduate preferred.

**PARTS SALES ASSISTANT** – Female; 21-23 yrs. old; College grad.; No experience required

**MERCHANDISERS/PROMODISERS (for leading supermarkets)** – 18-30 yrs. old; Male/Female; At least high school graduate; Experience in the same field preferred

**SALES STAFF/STOCKMAN (for Boutique)** – 18-24 yrs. old; Male/Female; At least high school grad.; Flexible and outgoing; With pleasing personality. Alabang, Las Piñas, & Sucat area

**BEAUTY CONSULTANT** – Female; 18-26 yrs. old; College level; With fair and clear complexion; With or without experience; For Quezon City, Pasig, & Mandaluyong area.

*Qualified candidates may apply personally at our office or send their resume thru email.*

---

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**Apply in person or send resume with employment certificate to:**

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2nd Flr. Raintree Mall, Cebu City
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Applications in English with resumé and a recent photograph should be sent to the Social Dialogue Project Office: Unit E, 7th Floor, One Joroma Building, Congressional Avenue cor. San Beda St., Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City, **Tel:** (02) 929-32-92 Telefax: (02) 929-32-92, Attention: Mr. Alvin A. Naboya or Ms. Cora M. Pullarca • email: necorazon@hotmail.com

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# DOLE expands program for displaced workers, distressed firms

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) has expanded its package of assistance to workers displaced by social and economic disruptions to include addressing the demand of key industries for skilled workers and assisting affected companies restructure and manage their workforce.

Department Order No. 85, series of 2007, provides for the expansion of the Dole adjustment measures program (AMP) for the prevention of job losses and assistance to displaced workers.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said the Dole-AMP, under D.O. No. 85, shall be implemented nationwide to assist the following: (1) threatened or displaced workers due to rightsizing, redundancy, import competition, introduction of technological change and labor-saving devices, and other economic reasons directly or indirectly caused by trade liberalization; (2) at risk companies particularly those which desire to implement responsible workforce restructuring; and (3) communities with large-scale displacement of the local workforce.

Brion said the Dole-AMP is a safety net program that provides a package of assistance and other forms of interventions as a means of helping workers and companies cope with economic and social disruptions.

He said the program provides a mechanism through which various services are extended to displaced workers, which included employment facilitation locally and overseas and livelihood assistance to those who prefer to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The labor chief said quick reaction teams (QRTs) have been set up at Dole national and regional offices to serve as the mechanism providing assistance to displaced workers under the Dole-AMP.

He noted that expanding the program will help address the demand of key industries or key employment generators (KEGs) for workers equipped with the necessary skills and also assist distressed firms in carrying out responsible workforce management or restructuring.

The KEGs are industry sectors expected to grow and be in need of skilled workers until 2010. The National Manpower Summit in 2006 identified the KEGs with their corresponding manpower needs as follows:

Agribusiness (expected to generate approximately two million job opportunities in the next five years), Cyber Services (1.083 million), Hotels and Restaurants (more than 400,000), Medical Tourism (128,000), Health Services (58,000), Mining (39,000), and Aviation (27,000) along with the skills demand also projected in the country's growing Creative Industries.

Brion said that under D.O. No. 85, the QRTs shall set up an early warning network monitoring system with companies and community leaders to monitor occurrences of worker displacements, and shall immediately conduct profiling of displaced workers to determine the assistance that would be provided to the workers.

Assistance shall include job search services, local and overseas employment facilitation, and provision of livelihood loans and skills training as well as training programs for specialized skills to displaced workers who opt to put up businesses or find new employment in key industries.

At the company or enterprise level, the QRTs shall assist distressed firms in the form of training and learning sessions on developing an internal adjustment plan on alternatives to worker dismissals or lay-offs.

"In case displacement is inevitable, the QRTs shall help affected firms and communities develop a displacement plan on strategies and options aimed at helping workers cope with impending displacement," Brion said adding that "the options shall include training, enterprise creation, early retirement, and financial incentives."

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| *Developing Supervisory Leadership* | Oct. 23-24 1:30-5:30 p.m. | Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas | Porter & Miles Inc. call Mercy Tel. 638-7719/20 |
| *Graphics and Publishing Seminar* | Oct. 24-26 | AIM Acced Conf. Cent Makati City | James Tornea Tel. 632-8960639 / flera@info.com.ph |
| *Accelerated Selling* | Oct. 24-26 1:30-5:30 p.m. | RCBC Plaza Makati City | Powermax Consulting Group Tel. 687-9014/5748 call Leni 0905-3354486 |
| *Labor Relations Updates - 2007* | Oct. 25 1-5 p.m. | U.P. Solair Diliman, Q.C. | Phil. Industrial Relations Society/941-6170 Atty. Cesario Azucena/0915-9747772; email: ferdie.atanacio@gmail.com |
| *Labor Updates and RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization-Boon or Bane?* | Oct. 31 | TBD (Visayas) | ECOP Training & Devt Dept Tel. 8990411 loc 116 or fax 8958623 training@ecop.org.ph |
| *Top Secrets of Handling BIR Audit Workshop* | Nov. 7-9 1:30-5:30 p.m. | Holiday Inn Galleria Ortigas | Powermax Consulting Group Tel. 687-9014/5748 call Leni |

# DOLE sets multi-sectoral meet to assist OFWs affected by strong peso

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (Dole) is set to consult with various sectors and stakeholders in order to help overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families cope with the continued strengthening of the peso, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said recently.

Brion said the Dole, in collaboration with other government agencies, would hold a multi-sectoral consultative conference early next month to come up with a package of assistance to OFWs who have been adversely affected by the strong peso.

Earlier, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo directed concerned agencies to draw up measures that the government could adopt to assist OFWs and their families.

Brion said the salaries of OFWs onsite remain the same but their equivalent earnings in peso are affected particularly if their earnings overseas are directly in US dollars, thus leading to the decline of their families' and spending capability in the Philippines.

From more than P52 to the dollar at the start of 2007, the exchange rate is down to the P44 level to the dollar. While the peso's appreciation benefits the economy by enabling the country to pay off its debts at lower cost, it reduces the value of the dollar remittances being sent to the OFWs' families back home.

To facilitate the conduct of the consultative conference with stakeholders, Brion issued Dole Administrative Order No. 328, series of 2007, providing for the creation of the Dole inter-agency committee which would handle the preparation and conduct of the conference.

The committee is headed by Administrator Marianito Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. Committee members include Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Baldoz, Dole Assistant Secretary Rebecca Calzado, Director Jalio dela Torre of the Bureau of Local Employment, Director Teresita Manzala of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs, and Deputy Executive Director Eustacio Enriquez of the Maritime Office. Undersecretary Luzviminda Padilla will oversee the implementation of the committee's activities.

# No talks with China yet on deployment of OFWs

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (Dole) on recently clarified reports that the government has put on hold the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to China as a result of the controversy brought by the national broadband network (NBN) deal.

"There is nothing to put on hold because there is no formal talk yet with China as far as the deployment of OFWs is concerned," Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo Brion said.

"We are still in the process of looking at the possibility of tapping China as a new market for OFWs, especially for teachers and other skilled workers. China is one of the emerging labor markets that will sustain deployment in the years to come," Brion added.

The first step in establishing labor arrangements is to determine if we need such a relationship. The Dole did this through our internal conference at midyear this year with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and our Asian labor attaches, Brion clarified.

The second step, he added, is to secure a budget if we intend to put up a labor office. The Dole recently asked Congress for this fund and is now waiting for results.

"The next step is to notify the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who will help us establish the linkage through diplomatic channels. We have not reached this stage so any talk of formal negotiation is premature," the Labor Chief further said.

Brion deplored the news reports linking the possible labor ties with the NBN deal. "Let's hope we have not started on the wrong foot on our future relationship with China because of this news report," he said.

## John Clements team leader seminar

LEADING HUMAN RESOURCES FIRM John Clements will be sponsoring a seminar for team leaders of contact centers on Oct. 20. The one-hour event will discuss "Coaching for Success" and will be held at the Professional Staffers Training Center, Basement 1 LKG Building, 6801 Ayala Avenue Makati City at 8-9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In keeping with the firm's dedication to developing leaders for the country's various industries, John Clements regularly sponsors seminars for professionals at every level of management. In particular, the explosive growth of the business process outsourcing or BPO industry has led to several promotions within the ranks of outsourcing companies. As a result, there is an increase in the number of first-time managers who need to adjust to their new roles quickly. The John Clements Team Leader forums are organized to help these first-time managers and to equip them with the right leadership and management tools.

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This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

## Labor relations updates 2007

RECENTLY, THERE have been many important developments in the field of labor-management relations among which is the implementation of RA9481: Strengthening Workers' Right to Self Organization. There are also landmark decisions of the Supreme Court or latest significant jurisprudence on labor cases. In view of these events, the Philippine Industrial Relations Society (PIRS) shall hold a forum on "LR Updates 2007" on Oct. 25, Thursday, 1-5 PM, at the U.P. SOLAIR, Diliman, Q.C. Lawyer Cesario Azucena, multi-awarded author of books on Labor Code, IR practitioner and bar reviewer shall be the Forum resource speaker.

For details and registration, you may contact PIRS Secretariat: Ferdie (9416170/ 0915-9747772); Letty (0917-8917134) or Flo (0917-4088790).

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DAY 2
- Responsibility and Accountability of Bookkeepers Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials
- Reasons for Receiving Subpoena Duces Tecum
- First Notice
- Second Notice
- Third Notice
- Risks of Ignoring BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- Common Mistakes in Handling BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- Effective Strategies

DAY 3
- How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Letter of Authority - The Right Forms
- How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum - The Right Forms
- Secrets of Canceling BIR Letter of Authority
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| Selection Step | Date | Venue |
|---|---|---|
| I. *Written Technical Exam* | 30 & 31 of October<br>05-06 of November | DTI Makati |
| II. *Panel Interview* | 14, 15 & 16 of November | DTI Makati |
| III. *Simulation Exercise* | 21, 22, 23 of November | DTI Makati |
| IV. *Psychological Appraisal* | 05, 06, 07 of December | QC |
| V. *EXCOM Interview* | 19 of December | DTI Makati |

Note:

1. Each selection step is a hurdle point. Candidate has to meet the required rating per selection step to be able to proceed to the succeeding activity
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3. Candidates who pass the psychological examination will be scheduled to take the Career Service Professional Eligibility Exam. CSC Examination date will be announced later.

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361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
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### SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER

Handle the accounting and finance functions of the Organisation including forecasting, budgeting, fund management, tax accounting, internal audit, reporting, and compliance with Government requirements and donor expectations. Supervise on-site and field-based finance teams.

Should be CPA with at least five years of progressively responsible experience with fund accounting, ideally in the non-profit arena and for international donors/contractors.

### DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Lead CFSI fund-raising efforts. Proactively identifies potential fund-sources, prepares proposals as well as appeals, and secures grants, contributions, and service opportunities. Maintains the Donor Database and continuously nurtures donors leading to sustained commitments to the work of CFSI.

### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Provide administrative support services to the Executive Director and contributes to development, monitoring, and reporting efforts. Manage the communications programmes of CFSI. Representational responsibilities and domestic travel are required occasionally.

Qualified applicants for these posts are proactive, organized, and have academic degrees as well as experience in business management, marketing, and/or communications. Strong interpersonal skills and cross-cultural experience; excellent writing and English language skills; and familiarity with both the corporate and NGO communities in the Philippines are required. Proficiency in the use of computers and various software is also required.

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***Essential Qualifications:***

- College degree in Communication with preference on Development Communication, Journalism and Communication Research.
- Six or more years work experience working for a development agency or media company, with strong community organizing background and creative arts management skills
- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Adept in using participatory community appraisal and action research skills
- Knowledge management
- Design and creative arts skills (branding of messages, lay-out)
- Web management
- Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment

Address your application letter with Curriculum Vitae and photo to:

UNICEF HR Manila
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6819 Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
1200 Makati City, Philippines

**We encourage you to e-mail your application to hrmanila@unicef.org.**
Deadline for application: **2 November 2007**

### FINANCE ASSISTANT

The principal function of the post is to provide accounting and administrative support related to the receipt, recording, booking, and reporting of donations from all sources. This post reports directly to the Finance Officer with coordination and guidance from the Head of the Private Sector Division.

***Essential Specifications:***

- College graduate, preferably supplemented by courses in Accounting.
- Certified Public Accountant, an advantage.
- Preferably with training in database management and customer relations
- At least five (5) years working experience in accounting, finance and banking, and bookkeeping preferably with a customer-oriented organization
- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written
- Knowledge and skills in accounting and financial practices.
- Advanced computer skills in spreadsheet, database, networks, and word processing applications.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a multi-cultural environment

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# Deal with 'senior moments:' Get organized

## *Have a game plan to help you remember things*

**By Loree Cruz-Mante**
*Contibutor*

AGE IS USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH decreasing memory sharpness. The so-called "senior moments" increase with age. The extra challenge comes when such senior moments begin to affect efficiency at work, irritate others, and generally result in reduced effectiveness.

We must all deal with senior moments sensitively because aging is part of the human condition, beyond our control, and probably not something we would willingly choose to have. Aging workers should also not be made to feel reduced and trivialized simply because an inevitable reality has set in.

How does one deal with senior moments (and those who have them) in an increasingly multigeneration workplaces?

**Excuses for lousy work.** Senior moments may not be really that problematic except that workers, young or old, use them as excuses for mediocre work. Some people use habitual forgetfulness to explain why they are unable to perform well.

The problem here is that when senior moments are consistently blamed for poor performance, what the worker is saying is he is powerless to change the situation and bosses, therefore, should not demand more than what aging bodies can offer.

What about those young workers with entitlements to senior forgetfulness?

They can't point to age as the culprit! Surgery and anaesthesia, perhaps? Too much drinking or smoking, gimmicking, or clicking on the mouse?

**Stress as a cause.** Could it be that stressed-out lives bring on the senior moments earlier than they should? Many eat hamburger meals while driving. Then pop stress and vitamin pills instead of lettuce, *malunggay* and bananas through chapped, dehydrated, soda-drenched lips. How many fall ill when their palm pilots and diaries show white space and free days. People lead our lives in a pace that bring on aging earlier than. Instead of slowing down, though, people turn to anti-aging cream, age-defying shampoo, and visits to the gym, spa and cosmetic surgeon.

No wonder it's getting harder to remember things!

**Debunking the myth.** I suggest that we begin by debunking a myth: that senior moments are the exclusive property of older workers. It is true that senior moments increase with age, but they can affect a good number of young people who don't seem "qualified" yet to experience them.

A work colleague recently complained to me that she was having more and more senior moments these days. I jokingly retorted that she had no right to say that, being in her early 30s. She said: "But the truth is that I do have them. Maybe age should not be the qualifier." We had a good but pregnant laugh.

**Plan to cope.** I once had an underperforming staff who always blamed her work errors on three caesarian deliveries. It was tiring having to suffer the brunt of her ever-present senior moments.

The problem is not so much the senior moments per se, but the fact that some people do not have a game plan to help themselves out. Perhaps it is time to think up creative ways of remembering. Get into the habit of writing things down. I carry a notepad in my handbag at all times. If I can't jot it down there, I use my cellphone. A friend of mine has notepads and bulletin boards, in every place in his house: kitchen counter, night table, dining area, bathroom, even the garage!

If memory can't be trusted, don't force the issue. Protect yourself with memory aids.

Some have also taken to memory-enhancing, drugs, diets and lifestyles that help retard memory loss. Lifelong learning is a proven age-retarding strategy and one that keeps the mind in a perpetual state of activity, enthusiasm and zest for the more of life.

Senior moment-friendly habits I used to say, "I have three points to make." I often ended up remembering only two. Now I merely say, "Let me point out something" and then extend to all of three points that only I know at the outset, that is, if I can get that far.

Another practice is to have a "witness" observe us in certain situations when senior moments most likely turn up. For example, when taking medication, I ask a "witness" to see that I am taking it, the kind of pill and the time. He or she can help "testify" that I indeed took the pill when I begin to doubt myself. There are also all kinds of pillboxes intended to help people manage medication-taking. "A place for everything and everything in its place." It takes an awful lot to remember where we have left our spectacles, ballpen or cell phone.

It takes much less effort to remember that spectacles go on this shelf and not on another. This habit limits the boundaries of the search. We can also request officemates to observe where we put them down whenever they can.

**Cause pleading.** Older workers often diminish themselves by using senior moments to plead their cause for attention or care. In the process of seeking understanding of their aging status, they actually make themselves look funny or pitiful. They become icons of those once-productive workers who are no physically past their prime, rather than the rich storehouses of wisdom that they should be.

**See the humor.** Why can we not laugh at our senior moments, even at ourselves? I was once trying to open a Powerpoint presentation while in front of a class.

Suddenly I couldn't remember what I was looking for in the My Documents folder. I looked up at all 20 people tensely staring at me and asked:

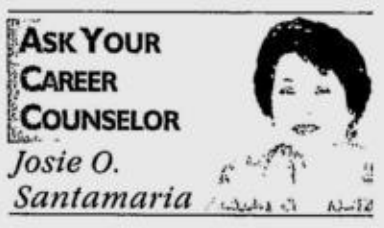
"Where am I? Who am I?" We all laughed and no one really fussed, if they even realized I wasn't kidding.

**Use those moments.** In the end, what we do need to apologize for is not that we have our senior moments, but that we have not dealt with them appropriately. We should apologize for not working around our senior moments so that they least disturb our usual level of performance. We should apologize for allowing them to ruin us.

Beyond accepting our senior moments, we should rejoice that we still have enough memory to be productive, useful and worthwhile despite our senior moments ...or perhaps even because of them.

*(The author is a freelance HR consultant, trainor and writer. She is also a career counselor with Drake Beam Morin Philippines. E-mail the author at lcmante@yahoo.com)*

# 'How do I get started in consulting?'




**I HAVE THREE CHILDREN, aged 2-6 years old. My husband and I have decided that they are my priority over my job and corporate career. I'm 38 years old and a manager of compensation and benefits of the HR department of a big consumer company. I have a BS in Economics and presently pursuing my MBA major in Human Resources. I want to resign and work as a consultant so that I can work from our home and spend more time with my children.**

**But I know that it's hard to give up what I've been used to getting from a corporate job. But there is no other way I can take a direct hand in bringing up my children.**

**Please advise me on how I can make a start in consulting and how I can develop a network and make it work. Is it important for me to have an MBA?**

**Ms Consultancy**

You are sure of your decision to resign and know the benefits you will derive from being your own boss. As a consultant, you can manage your time so that you can attend to your children's needs, enjoy time freedom, and be able to work on projects in the area of your expertise. On the other hand, you also know that you will no longer get regular paychecks, not be able to enjoy employee benefits such as medical insurance and other perks of corporate life. But you can't have your cake and eat it, too.

To be a consultant is very challenging. What I'm writing to you now in answer to your concerns is taken from the school of hard knocks. I developed and continue to maintain a consultancy practice after leaving the security of an academic career.

When you start out on your own, don't expect to get projects and start earning immediately. There will be times when you have a desert experience and times when there is an abundant rainfall. This is why consultants should make and follow financial planning and budgeting.

Consultants normally work from three types of base: a company, a partnership or a sole proprietorship. Your concern is how to make a start in consulting work as a sole proprietor and be home-based. In this way, you have no worry about overhead expenses.

Definitely an MBA will give you a competitive edge. Being a consultant requires not only solid work experience, an expertise which others recognize, but also academic background. We have famous and sought-after consultants with no MBAs or PhDs. They are more of an exception nowadays.

The trend now is to have MBAs, MAs or even PhDs.

Your field of specialization is compensation and benefits which is one of the HR functions most often outsourced. So you have an edge here. This is also an HR function almost all companies require.

Starting a career as a consultant is pretty much like applying for a job.

How can you sell yourself and your service so that you can get clients to hire you and be able to maintain them?

The first things to do are: (1) register as a sole proprietor with the Department of Trade and Industry; (2) have your calling cards made; (3) make a good resumé highlighting your competencies; (4) write an attractive introductory letter to prospective companies, starting with those in the consumer business which you are familiar with; (5) publicize to your friends in the industry, including your company's clients, that you have set up your own consultancy company and are providing consulting service in compensation and benefits; and (6) develop and enlarge your network.

This is how you develop a network: (1) List down the names of your contacts in the consumer industry initially. (2) Call each of them, tell them about your consultancy service, and ask for people and companies they know that could be your likely prospects. Opposite each name, write down the names of likely prospects they refer you to. (3) Call each prospect and introduce yourself. Talk about your consulting service. (4) Then ask them to refer you to people they know who can avail of your service. This is how you enlarge your network.

Find out the professional organizations in your field and in HR. In HR, there's the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) which I'm sure you are familiar with. Access its homepage at http://www.pmap.org.ph and its e-mail address is pmap@pmap.org.ph. You have everything to gain by being a member of this association and a member of a specific industry group, and attending its annual conventions and learning sessions. You will get information on likely prospects, thus adding more names to your network. From your association with other members, you will get other information important to your consulting work, including range of professional fees charged which you may not know at this point, etc.

Collect business cards when you attend meetings of professional organizations. Give out your own cards. At the back of each card you collect, write notes e.g. where and when you met the person, what you remember about them, etc.

Do not be merely a member of professional organizations. Serve in committees or task forces, such as program and membership, with high visibility.

The idea of networking is that we give and take. We ask for contacts; we also give names of contacts. We are a part of the network of others.

Maintaining your clients require at least three things: competence on your part; confidentiality; and integrity. God bless you.

*(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems, Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company. Feedback at josanta maria@careersystems.com.ph)*

# What you should expect from hiring a professional

**By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas**
*Contributor*

THERE ARE MANY HIRING PROFESsionals who are reputable and true to their names. There are also a few who may have good intentions but do not necessarily have the proper training to conduct themselves as they should. It is important to know the difference.

This happened in one of the more popular coffee shops in Makati. A young girl was being interviewed by two headhunters who seemed to be almost as young as she was. One of the interviewers did much of the questioning and in time, he revealed that he was eyeing the candidate for either a banking or investment banking position. He mentioned the names of two local companies who were hiring and asked the candidate whether she was interested. The interviewer further mentioned that there were certain personality quirks within the investment bank mentioned and that he was merely warning the candidate about what to expect. In the end, the interviewer asked the candidate to promise not to tell his client what he just revealed.

The above scenario leaves much to be desired. Whether you are a client or a candidate, following are some details of refinement that you can demand from your local headhunter:

A client should expect to be represented professionally. Professional representation simply means that the headhunter talks about his client in a truthful and open manner without having any need to keep secrets. The fact that you are asking other people to shut up means something is not put in the proper light.

If something really needs to be said in confidence, like perhaps an explanation about the critical nature of the job requirement, then it is but logical that the meeting place should not be within hearing range of other people.

A client should expect confidentiality. While coffee shops are a popular place to meet up and chat, doing business at a busy place requires that a prudent headhunter look for a quiet spot where a discussion can be held privately. It helps protect the confidential details of a client's requirements.

Candidates can also demand for privacy. A candidate need not expose herself in a public place to tell the whole world that she is looking for a job. She may choose to meet at a place that she feels comfortable with. Hiring professionals must be sensitive to the needs of the candidates as well.

Discretion is the rule of the game. While closing a deal may be urgent, it is still important for a hiring professional to remember that people may be affected with every slip of the tongue that they make. As such, it is not only the candidate who needs to prepare, even the hiring person needs to know his or her spiel.

A few years back, one headhunter actually taught new hires the "science of creating a good story" that he meant to include the use of a fib to complete the drama. So next time you get a call from someone who tells you that he is the son or cousin of a famous person or businessman, for example, pause and listen well. You may need to exercise some discernment.

On the other hand, there are hiring consultants who are completely trustworthy. If you happen to find a good one, keep him as one of your best assets in the job-hunting game.

**Gospel: Luke 18:1-8**

*The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?*

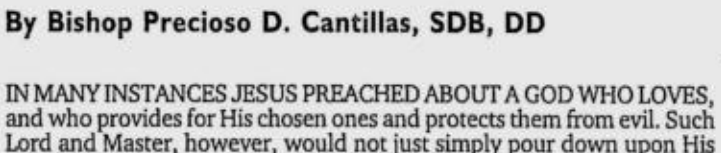
# *Employer-employee's love*

**By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD**

IN MANY INSTANCES JESUS PREACHED ABOUT A GOD WHO LOVES, and who provides for His chosen ones and protects them from evil. Such Lord and Master, however, would not just simply pour down upon His beloved everything they need in life without them having to exert any effort. At least, they would have to pray and "to pray without becoming weary." Then, the hard work which accompanies the incessant prayer would certainly open the floodgates of abundant divine blessings.

Something similar could happen in the world of work where the workers, particularly the employed or salaried ones would depend on the "love and providence" of the employer. If the industry owners or employers would behave as a loving God and would consider their employees as their beloved and chosen ones, they would certainly treat them much better than they would their money and machineries. They would value their human dignity more than the return of their investments; they would show compassion on the failures of their workers, without however condoning their irresponsibility; they would take very good care of the workers as they would do to their beloved children. Such loving attitude and behavior of employers would generate the same desirable human qualities in the workers/employees.

The workers who feel that they are loved and are highly esteemed in return would be strongly motivated to work hard and sacrifice themselves for the good of the company. The company's growth could assure everyone not only of material blessings but also of the feelings of joy of being in a workplace that has become a loving community. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*




# *'Ora et labora'*

**By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS**

WORK AND PRAYER ARE LIKE HORSE AND CARRIAGE. YOU SHOULDN'T just work and work or just pray and pray and expect satisfying results. Some people have this notion that work and prayer must be separate—something like the idea of the separation between Church and State—so they think that prayer is the domain of those in the cloisters while work is a sphere belonging to us "outside." But they couldn't be more wrong. In fact, in many monasteries, the rule is "ora et labora," meaning "pray and work." The Trappists, for instance (we have them in Guimaras, Iloilo), begin their day with prayer at 2:15 a.m. and end it with prayer at 7 p.m., but in between is incessant hard work combined with set hours of prayer.

There is something about this "ora et labora" rule that we workers in the world can—or should—pick up and apply in our own workplaces if we want to be deeply satisfied at our jobs. Working hard definitely is rewarding. In fact, there are people who swear by hard work alone, sincerely believing that whatever they have, they have because they work hard—so there's no need to put God in the picture. That works fine if for you the workplace is but an arena wherein to prove your skills. But if for you the workplace is a little world in which you learn to understand and appreciate others while expressing your uniqueness, hard work alone will not take you very far. Work at times drives us into unjust situations which only a connectedness with God can make us overcome. And that connectedness is assured us if we "call out to Him day and night..." whether or not we have problems—or have "dishonest judges" in our midst. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

# *School opens for call center professionals*

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUdents can now undergo formal academic training for a high-paying career in the call center industry. This interactive training is being administered to students in Metro Manila by call center school JIB e-Academy, which is now accepting enrollees in its new branch at the Tumble Tots Building, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Libis Quezon City (call 687-6793, 0917-7111088 or e-mail jib.eacademy @gmail.com).

"JIB e-Academy has forged strategic partnership with leading call center players like Sykes, Teletech, eTelecare, Advanced Contact Solutions, Accenture, Six Eleven Global Solutions and Viventis Search Asia in order to maximize its reach in the industry. Through these partnerships JIB e-Academy graduates are given their full shot of joining the ranks of professional agents in top call centers nationwide," JIB e-Academy president, educator and business leader Joji Ilagan Bian said.

JIB e-Academy offers programs that suit individual needs through interactive training, which includes call simulation, interactive English language training, handling of inbound and outbound calls, customer relations and work values, ethics and one-on-one coaching in an atmosphere specifically designed to be both productive and fun. Trainees may choose from available training courses that best suit their needs.

The fast track course takes only 20 hours, the standard course 40 hours, and the comprehensive course 25 days, all carried out through immersion, comprehension and expression of spoken English, which is a must for any call center agent. The well-rounded training gives its graduates an edge that sets them for success in this fast-expanding field.

Owned and operated by the Joji Ilagan Career Center Foundation Inc., the academy already has branches in the cities of Davao, General Santos, Butuan, Marawi and Iloilo, and is a consistent leader in providing quality and relevant training to aspi-ring call center professionals. A report from the National Statistics Office cites unemployment of 7.4 percent and underemployment of 18.9 percent in the business process outsourcing and contact center industry as of April 2007 even amid projections that it can generate up to 2 million jobs by 2010.

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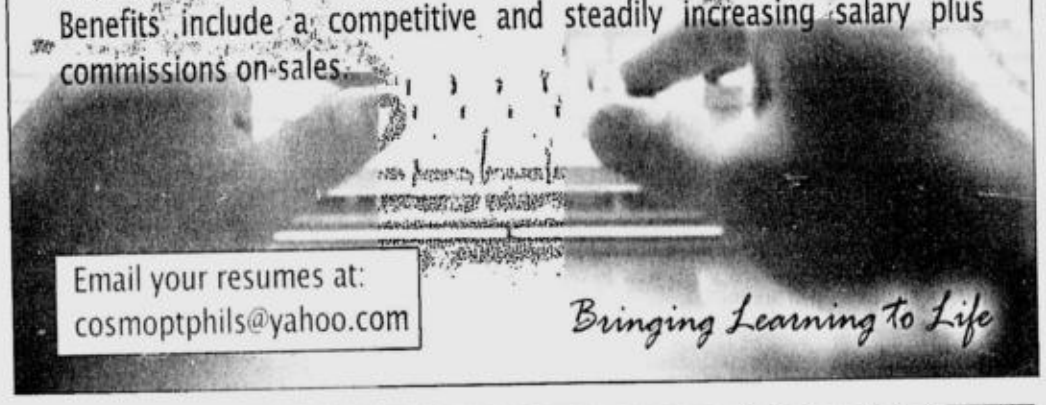

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  - Pharmaceuticals
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- With strong network of high net worth clients
- Willing to start immediately

**Send your resumé to:**
Fax +632 895 2677
Email: jcilr.sales@gmail.com

***All applications shall be treated in the strictest confidence.***

---

## ACF

### VACANCY

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER (ACF- International network) is humanitarian, voluntary, non-governmental (N.G.O.), non-religious, non-political and non-profit making organization. ACF has been providing assistance to vulnerable populations in the Philippines since May 2000 in food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition. ACF currently looking for qualified and experienced candidates to fill the following positions:

**1. Water and Sanitation Project Manager:** Water, Civil or Sanitation Engineer or related University Degree.

**2. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer:** University degree in rural development.

**3. Human Resource Management Assistant:** University degree in HR related field or administration with knowledge in Accountancy is a plus.

**4. Logistic assistant:** College or University degree with knowledge in logistic or supply chain management.

**5. Project Assistant:** College or University degree or knowledge in Rural Development and Disaster Preparedness

All positions requires at least 3 years experience in similar position, Experience in management of volatile security contexts with capacity to face a stressful environment, Good analytical skills and ability to deal with partners, experience in staff management, Team spirit and good communication qualities. Previous experience working with (I)NGO is desirable.

**Deadline for applications: November 4, 2007**

An application letter stating your motivation and your current salary, detailed curriculum vitae, including daytime telephone contact number and copies of university diploma, and professional references should be sent to:

**Accion Contra el Hambre**
**Gov. Gutierrez Avenue,**
**RH7 9600**
**Cotabato City**
**or**
**achcotabato@yahoo.com**

Detailed job description can be obtained on request at the above mentioned e-mail address.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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- Above Average communications skills in English, Alert and Patient

**3. Applications Developer**
- Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering, proficient in VBG / SQL Server
- Knowledgeable in Web Development, Graphics, and in Net Application Development
- Analytical and can work under pressure

**4. Associate Auditor**
- Not more than 30 years old, Certified Public Accountant, with one year relevant auditing experience
- Has good oral and written communication skills, trustworthy and independent minded
- Computer Literate, analytical and can work under pressure

**6. Design & Construction Supervisor**
- Male, Not more than 35 years of age, BS Architecture Graduate, Five (5) years experience as a designer in a design consultancy firm with previous project in the design of retail establishment, Three (3) years experience in actual construction works and project implementation
- Has the ability to correlate architectural plans with engineering plans and to prepare corresponding working drawings on various construction stages
- Highly proficient in Auto Cadd and 3D Rendering

***Requirements***
- Printed Resume, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
- NBI Clearance (less than 1 year old)
- Birth Certificate
- Transcript of Records

**Applicants may apply at:**
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Floor, EHA Building
Duty Free Fiestamall
Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City

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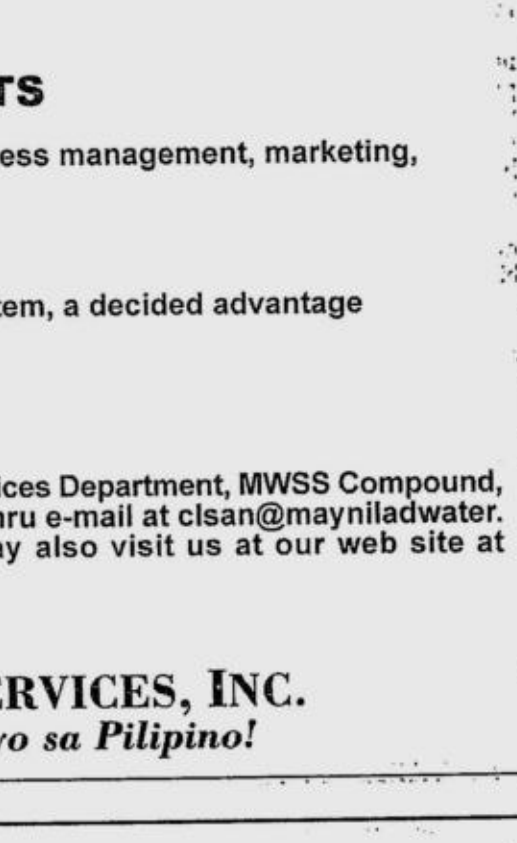

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- Good in oral & written communication

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- Knowledge in SAP/Branch, Collection System, a decided advantage
- Possesses good customer relations skills
- Good in oral & written communication

**You can submit your resume to the Personnel Services Department, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City or send it thru e-mail at clsan@mayniladwater.com.ph or sof@mayniladwater.com.ph. You may also visit us at our web site at http// www.mayniladwater.com.ph**

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Oct. 23-25 @Tabaco City Plaza, Tabaco, Albay

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**Text ETEL (space) PDI (space) Name, Landline Number & desired position. Send to: 2327(Globe Subscribers) 0917-8902327 (All Non-Globe Subscribers)**

## Save the Children®

Save the Children US is a non-government organization and one of the leading international development organizations in the world. The mission of Save the Children is to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents. Save the Children is a non-political, non-religious international organization that prides itself in independence and neutrality.

SC PhCO focuses on four priority results: 1) Children are protected from harm through physical and psychosocial assistance; 2) Children learn and develop with age-appropriate care and education; 3) Children are healthy and well-nourished, and 4) Children thrive in food secure and economically viable households. Save the Children Philippines Country Office (SC PhCO) has been operating in the Philippines for over 25 years with programs with the aim of providing child-focused programs in the sectors of Education, Health and Nutrition, Emergencies and Crisis. SC PhCO sponsorship program offices are in West Visayas (Region VI – Iloilo, Antique, Guimaras), Metro Manila (Parañaque, Taguig and Las Piñas) and South Central Mindanao through the recently opened office initially covering South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat and eventually expanding to Saranggani. In addition, SC PhCO is engaged in various grant-funded projects in the country including Bicol, Leyte, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Region XII.

Save the Children is accepting applications for

### Health Manager
(Code: HM)

A senior position reporting to the Deputy Country Director for Program Development and Support of the Philippines Country Office, to manage one of three sectors - Health. The Health Manager is responsible for providing overall direction to the health efforts of the Philippine Country Office and leads a team of sector coordinators, specialists, and consultants under Save the Children's Sectoral Program Initiatives Team (SPRINT). The Health Manager liaises between Save the Children and its partner agencies for health initiatives and also provides technical assistance to these partner agencies. The Health Manager provides direction to resource generation in this sector and coordinates efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

**Key responsibilities:**

1. Provide technical direction and inputs for programming and decision-making on the Health sector
2. Prepare and see through successful awarding of project proposals to funding agencies or other Save the Children offices,
3. Provide technical support and direction for the Health sector specialists in various program areas; promote synergy and collaboration in program design and implementation efforts on grants and sponsorships of the organization
4. Champion replicability and scalability of successful Save the Children prototypes and initiatives; document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, education and training, and technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups

**Geographical Coverage:** Based in Metro Manila; will require regular travel to program areas in South Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Competencies: Strong leadership and management skills; Previous relevant experience in an international NGO preferred; Doctor of Medicine or Bachelor's degree in related discipline, masteral degree or its equivalent an advantage; Ten or more years program development experience; Demonstrated training and research skills; Demonstrated effective and fluent written, oral and presentation communication in English ; Computer literacy; Professional work experience in a multi-cultural work a plus. Save the Children builds on the following competencies: Developing others; Relationship building; Collaboration, Teamwork, Ability to influence others, Self management; Innovation, Problem-solving, Judgment, and Initiative

**Send resumes on or before Monday, November 5, 2007 but applications sent earlier will be appreciated.**

By email: **HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org** (please indicate respective position code)
By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc.

(if in MetroManila) No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila (Fax 632-852-0215)

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- With at least 1 year work experience in 3-5 star hotel or fine dining restaurant
- 28 years old and below
- Male; at least 5'7 in height
- Female; at least 5'4" in height
- Can communicate well in English and with pleasing personality

**250 CABIN STEWARDESS / ROOM ATTENDANTS / CHAMBERMAIDS / HOUSEKEEPING STAFF**

- With at least 1 contract experience (5-6 months) in any 3-5 star hotel or reputable resorts
- Female; at least 5'2" in height
- 28 years old and below
- Can communicate well in English and with pleasing personality

**250 3 / COOKS**

- With at least 1 year work experience with International/Western Cuisine in any 3-5 star hotel or fine dining restaurants
- Male; 32 years old and below
- Can communicate well in English

**100 BARTENDERS / BAR WAITRESS / BAR WAITERS**

- With at least 1 year work experience in 3-5 star hotel or bar establishments
- Male; at least 5'7 in height
- Female; at least 5'4" in height
- 28 years old and below
- Can communicate well in English and with pleasing personality

**8 NURSE B**

- Graduate from accredited nursing school with a minimum of 2 years recent nursing experience.
- With STCW COC endorsement
- Preferably with shipboard experience.
- Salary offers 739 Euro per month (first contract) and 822 Euro per month (second contract)

**250 COSTA APPRENTICE / TRAINEES**

- Graduate of Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and BS Tourism
- Male; at least 5'7 in height
- 26 years old and below
- Can communicate well in English and with pleasing personality
- With or without work experience

**20 ASSISTANT HOTEL STOREKEEPERS**

- With experience in Hotel F&B as storekeeper or in a logistics or warehouse company
- Not more than 32 years old

**10 TAILORS**

- With 1 year experience as a tailor
- Not more than 45 years old
- Can communicate well in english

**FOURTH / THIRD ENGINEERS**

- Not More than 40 years old
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- Any type of vessel experience
- Salary offers 1,800 Euro

**ENGINE / DECK STOREKEEPER**

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- With STCW COC endorsement
- Any type of vessel experience
- Salary offers 1,800 Euro

All interested applicants may apply in person with complete resume, 2 x 2 ID photo, SSS ID, Certificates of Employment, passport and seaman's book (if available) at the Recruitment Center **MAGSAYSAY MARITIME CORPORATION** 520 TM Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

Look for **Ms. Imee S. Salvador** email: ilsabularse@magsaysay.com.ph

Telephone nos. 526-8888 loc 9440

**MMC CEBU**
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Ground Floor ATC Building 128
F. Ramos St. Cebu
Tel: 032-2548783

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Ms. Judy Ann Palmones
49 Jose Gil Palma St. Davao City
Tel: 082-2250789

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Capitol Drive Iznart st. Iloilo City
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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER / NOC MANAGER**

- Male/Female, 30 to 45 years old, graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Engineering or any related courses.
- Preferably holder of a Masters degree in Information Technology or Business Administration.
- Has worked for at least ten (10) years in the same capacity as IT Manager ideally within a telecommunications or call center company.
- Has excellent skill in various programming languages i.e. Java, Visual basic, Visual Fox Pro and the like.
- Has technical knowledge and hands-on experience in installing, troubleshooting, and administration of servers.
- Has familiarity and preferably with experience in development installation and maintenance of IT programs and systems supporting BPO or contact center operations.
- Understands all networking concepts and protocols such as LAN, WAN, VPN, VOIP, CODEC and the likes.
- Possesses excellent leadership, judgment, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Enjoys challenges, results-oriented and has high people management skills.
- With strong oral and written communication skills.

**HR OFFICER**

- Graduate of Human Resources Management, Psychology or any related courses.
- Has at least three (3) years work experience in recruitment, employee relations and organizational development.
- Proficient in the use of the English and Tagalog languages in both oral and written form.
- Computer literate.

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**

- Graduate of Computer Science, Fine Arts, Advertising or any related field.
- Proficient with Photoshop 7 or CS, Corel Draw version 10 or Page maker 7.
- Has at least 1 to 2 years desktop publishing experience using newspaper layout preferably from a newspaper company.
- Highly creative and has a very good flair in design.

Interested parties are requested to apply in person at:

**PILIPINAS INTERNATIONAL MARKETING SERVICES, INC.**
28th Floor, Onent Square Building, F. Ortigas Ave.
(formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. # 633-9599; Fax # 6338692
Or send resume and application letter through e-mail to **m_fabay@pimsi.net**
(Please indicate the position applied for as the subject title of your email)

**WANTED**
**CIVIL ENGINEER**

- Estimator / Site Engineer
- W/ or w/o experience
- Computer literate
- Male 21 to 28 yrs. old
- Single

Send resumé to:
Rm. 723 Downtown Center Building
516 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila

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- Graduate of any course

**CUSTOMER SERVICE PERSONNEL**
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- Graduate/Undergraduate is welcome

**OFFICE STAFF**
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# Junior INQUIRER

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 82

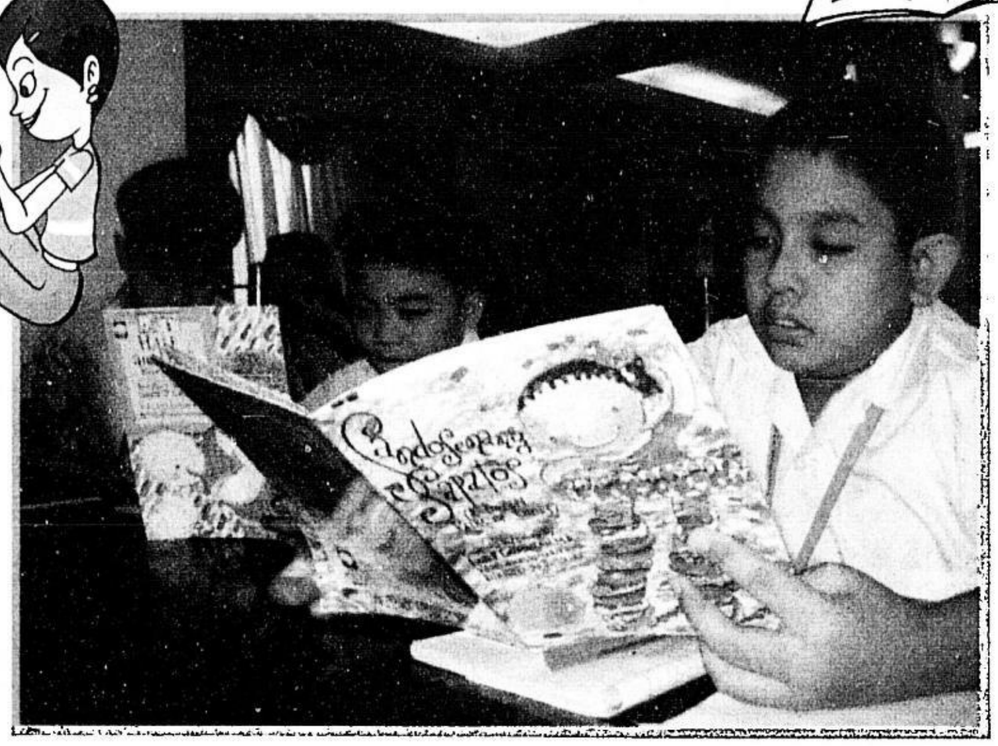

**WHAT'S INSIDE:**

This little boy's "surfboard" looks like something else. Turn to page 4 to find out what it is!

# Filipino kids read!

By Ruth L. Navarra

TEN-YEAR-OLD Hannah Faith Saab owns over a hundred books. She has always loved reading.



Perhaps this is one of the reasons why this girl from Adriatico Memorial School in Mindoro became the grand winner of the story retelling category of the first National Read-A-Thon competition.

She and other competitors were each given three books to read. "We had to make a summary, introduction and conclusion for each book. Then in our own words, we had to retell the story," she says. It was only on the day itself that they found out which among the three books they would retell.

Read-A-Thon is part of the Department of Education's (DepEd) Every Child A Reader Program which aims to enable all grade school students to communicate effectively through reading. DepEd Undersecretary Vilma Labrador said that more than 33,000 schools all over the country participated in the program.

"The schools chose the pupils who will represent them in the division and then in the regional competition. All the students that participated in the national level are the best of the best in their respective regions," she said. Only 96 students made it in the five-day competition.

Aside from story retelling, there were competitions in oral interpretation, vocabulary, and team reading.

Charie Rose Bantulo (Dadiangas West Elementary School, Region XII) and Grape Jam Danielle Loto (Don Luis Hidalgo Memorial School, Region IV) became the first and national winners in oral interpretation.

Racelin Paragas (Tetuan Central School, Region IX) and Michale Andre Barabarona (Pamplona Central School, NCR) were the first and national winners in vocabulary skills. Joshua Kyle Nino Oliveros, Mikko Alrashid Ringia (Koronadal Elementary School) and Frances Aleksis Anika Uy (Notre Dame Sienna of Koronadal, Region XII) placed first in Team Reading. The national winners for Team Reading were Ruby Anne Dorosan, Khate Martinez and Kim Zymberth Ynniel Iomanog (Iriga Elementary School, Region V).

After the competition, the participants discussed their favorite books over lunch. When it was time to say goodbye, they exchanged numbers with promises to stay in touch. These booklovers know too well that stories are best enjoyed when shared.

# WELCOME TO MY CORRAL!

**This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!**

**Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!**

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2005 East Children's Newspaper Awards Hall of Fame

# Seeing my future

**By Nicole Marie Reyes, 17 years old**

OUR SECTION'S ELECTIVE IS Journalism, and it's been amazing so far. Our teacher made us write an essay, asking if we think we have what it takes to be journalists. This is my answer.

I was raised in a family of writers. My uncle has won a Palanca and my grandmother has boxes of stories and essays that have never seen (and maybe never will see) the light of the world.

I've been writing poetry and short stories ever since I could hold a pen and make out letters, and I've been reading way before that. I want to become a writer because I believe I was born to be one. I want to become a journalist because I believe that I was born in this country to initiate change.

I remember growing up amidst issues of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. My grandmother would set aside the Junior Inquirer section for me, but I would sneak out other pages of the newspaper as well. I would read articles that caught my eye, the ones with bold graphics and written by writers whose names I found interesting. I would linger over words that sounded good when said out loud, or looked complicated. I marveled at the photography and smiled at the cartoons. The newspaper was a

universe of ink and images that were fun to play around with in my head, and left smudges on my fingers.

As I grew older, I steadily lost interest in the news. The news reports on television annoyed me and we stopped getting the newspaper daily. And then the "war against terrorism" was waged and I stopped watching the news. I locked my brain onto cartoons and MTV, and deliberately shut out anything related to current events. My mind was blissfully devoid of the words "Iraq," "weapons" and "war."

But then one day, I picked up a pen, and found I couldn't write.

It was then that I realized that what goes on around me—the death, the destruction, the chaos—is what fuels my words. It is what makes my hands go cold with excitement so that my brain is going too fast for my hand to catch up. I cared more than I thought about politics and society and the affairs we only talk of with adults around the dinner table.

Now, every time I wash the ink smudges off of my hands after reading the paper, I think of how much dedication it takes to deliver not just news, but ideas and viewpoints. I think of how much passion it takes to sit in front of a computer for hours creating a whole different world of words and letters, of verses and paragraphs, a whole package of knowledge and ideas to feed every mind in the Philippines and beyond. I think of how much I believe that I can be taught and trained, and be equipped with everything it takes to be a journalist. I think of all of this, and I smile, because I see my future.

**Want to get to know other JI readers like you? Want to write to our Snoops? Or do you simply want to be the first to know about JI promos? Join our yahoogroup! Just send a blank e-mail to jireaders-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

Think Out Loud!

# IF I WILL WRITE A BOOK...

I want to write about a princess who is kind to her subjects.—**Daniella Marie Mendoza**, 7, Bulacan

I want to publish a book of my drawings so I can show them to other kids.—**Alyssa Lavinia Dellosa**, 7, Taguig City

I want to write about a policeman or soldier who defends the weak from the bad guys.—**Francis Leo Mendoza**, 6, Bulacan City

I will write the love story of my mom and dad, and how they met.—**Ma. Jench Lorielle Piñgol**, 6, Mandaluyong City

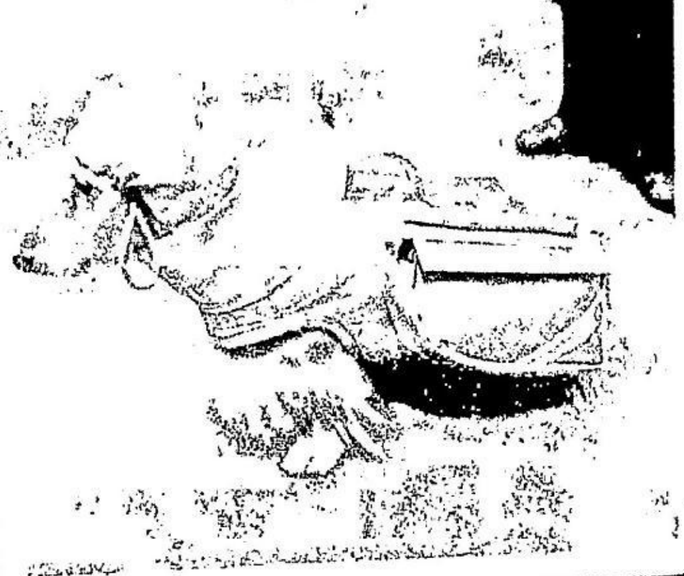
It will be about a hero who defends the citizens of the earth from aliens who want to conquer our world.—**Michael Van Paloma**, 12, Taguig City

## Kolkata, INDIA

### But where's Harry?

HARRY Potter author J.K. Rowling is suing organizers of a Hindu festival for constructing a replica of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The castle was constructed as part of the Durga Puja, an event wherein devotees build makeshift temples of all hues for the Hindu goddess Durga. **Reuters**

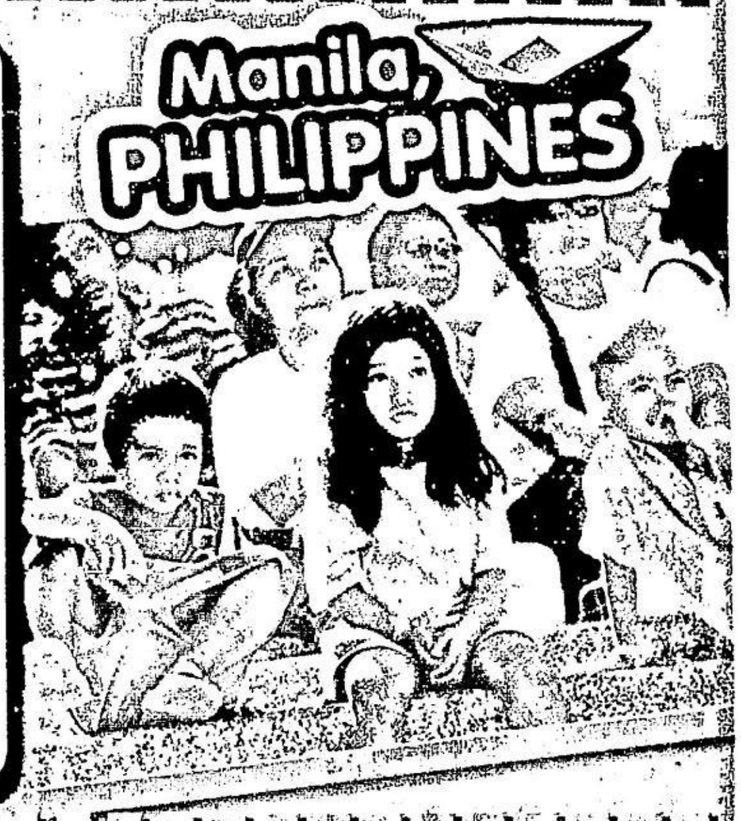
## Tokyo, JAPAN



### I'm ready!

BRING it on! This dog is ready for an emergency, as it is wearing a rescue jacket-raincoat that has an emergency kit and food. The rescue attire was on display during the Security and Safety Trade Expo in Tokyo. **Reuters**

## Manila, PHILIPPINES



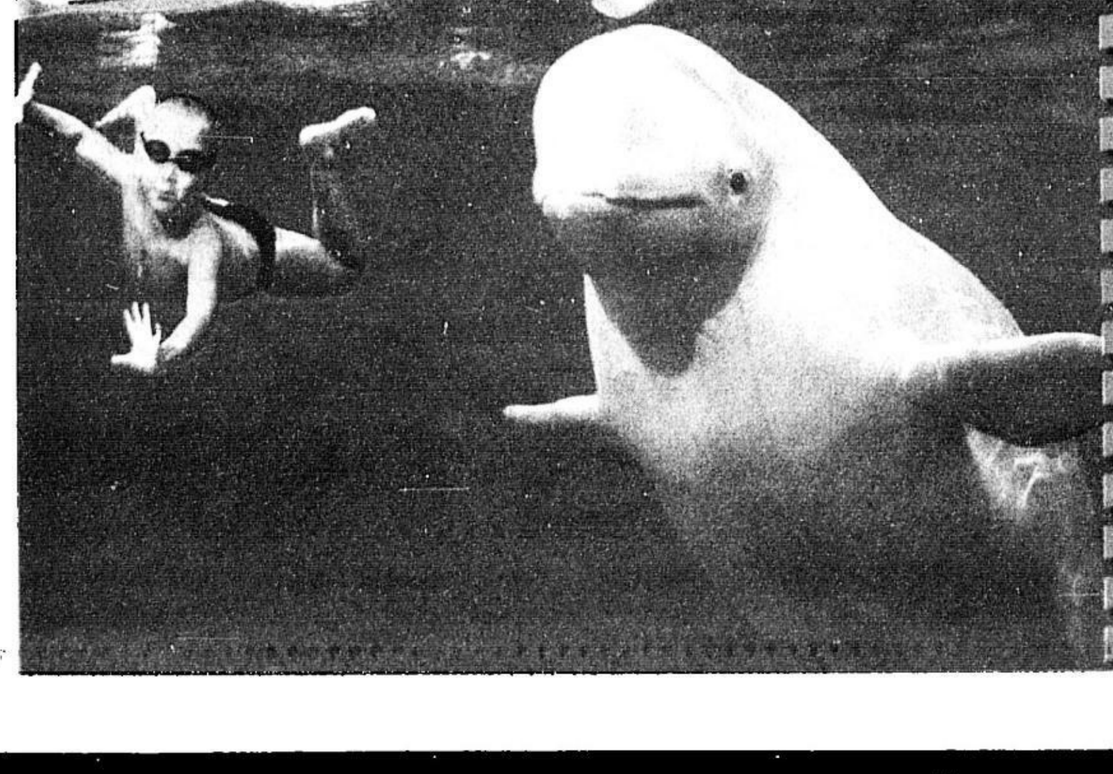
### Goodbye poverty

CHILDREN join the pledge to eradicate poverty during a United Nations campaign at the Rizal Park. The Philippines is one of the 191 countries and states which signed the Millennium Declaration, a commitment to combat poverty, hunger, disease, environmental degradation and discrimination by the year 2015. **AP**

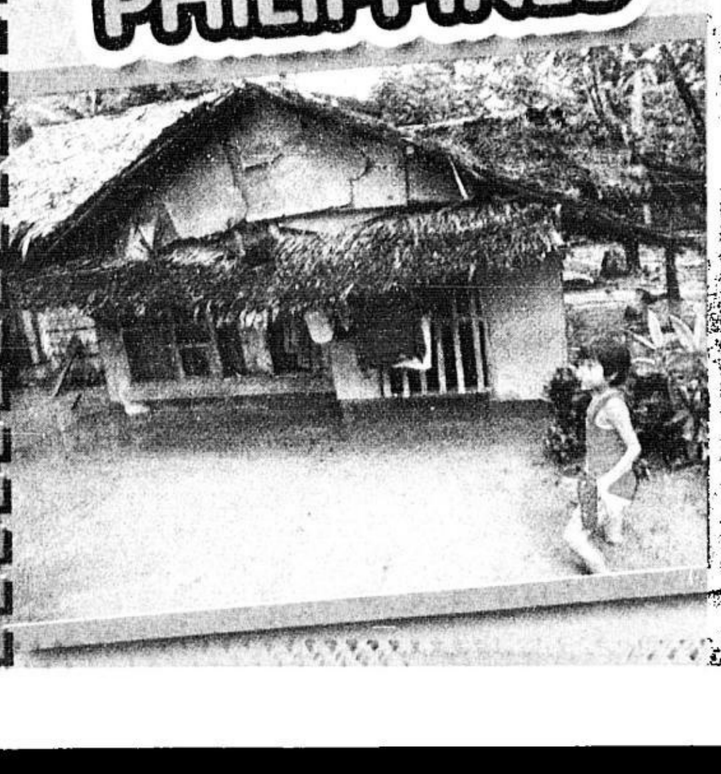
## Shandong, CHINA

### Swimming buddies

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Yang Yang swims with a 5-year-old beluga whale named Xiao Qiang at an aquarium in Qingdao. Yang Yang, who has been swimming since he was one year old, will perform with the white beluga again next year to welcome visitors to the 2008 Olympic Games. **AP**



## Sorsogon, PHILIPPINES



### Carpet of sand

This house is only one of many partially submerged homes in the areas surrounding the Bulusan volcano. Heavy rains dislodged fine sand on the mountain's slope and carpeted the villages of Monbon and Cogon, sending some 165 villagers to flee the mudslide. Bulusan, one of 22 active volcanoes in the country, has spewed ash 26 times since March last year. **AFP**

# A page from Guyito's Journal

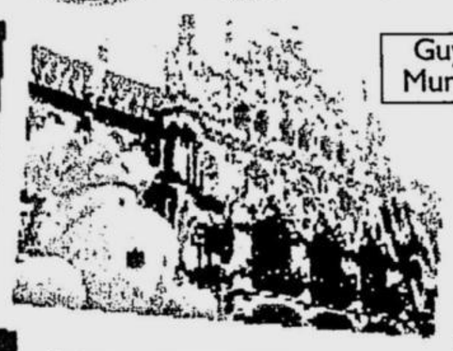
PHOTOS BY JANUARY ANN BAYSA

EVEN WHEN I WAS still a very young calf, I knew I was different from the others. I knew that there was more to life than eating grass and keeping myself cool in streams and rivers.

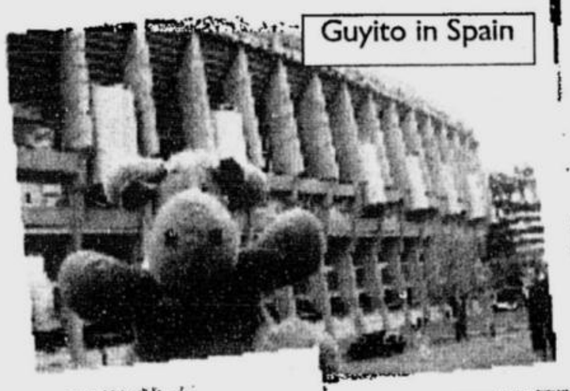
I think it was destiny when I met January Ann. She's a flight attendant of Qatar Airways and she asked me to join her in her travels. I knew that this was my chance to see the world. So I immediately said "see you later" to my JI family and friends.

As it turned out, Jan loved taking photos, so all of my adventures were documented. She caught me frolicking with a lion in Johannesburg, Africa. She wagged her finger at me and told me that lions are very dangerous and I should keep my distance or I will end up in their tummies.

Guyito in Africa

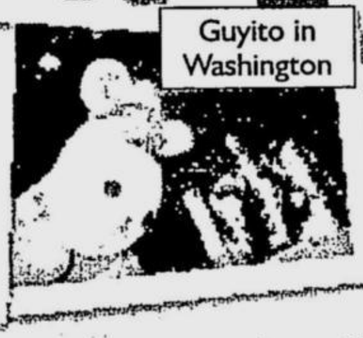

Guyito in Munchen

in Venice


Guyito in Spain

in London

in Vienna


Guyito in Washington

I went to two cities in Germany: Munich and Berlin. Munich was too cold so I mostly stayed all covered up. At the Berlin Zoo, I saw fellow carabaos. Because of the language barrier, I wasn't able to talk to them.

in Zurich

in Seychelles

Our tourist guide in Beijing, China convinced me to climb the Great Wall because according to Chairman Mao Zedong, whoever climbs the Great Wall is a hero. If that's true, then I'm a hero now.

I rode a cable car in Zurich, Switzerland and in Sentosa in Singapore. I've seen the imposing Big Ben in London and the gondolas in the canals of Venice.

I went to India but did not see Taj Mahal. They said dolls are not allowed inside. They wouldn't believe me when I told them that I'm no doll. Hmp.

But I was very happy in Washington, USA because I had my picture taken with the statue of US President Abraham Lincoln. I waited for hours to see a glimpse of Pres. George W. Bush in the White House, but the only interesting thing I saw were water sprinklers.

The beach of Seychelles reminded me of our own beautiful beaches that I got homesick. So when Jan and I decided to take a break, one of the first things that we did was hit the beaches of Boracay and Cebu. Nothing will ever beat that!

I have been to 20 countries, but I want to see more. So tonight, I will pack my bags and join Jan again for more adventures. I heard that she has been uploading my photos at http://guyito.multiply.com. so JI readers will have the chance to admire them! Who would have thought a carabao like me would become a globetrotter?

Guyito

in Beijing

in Singapore

Jan and me

in India

## RAGNAROK

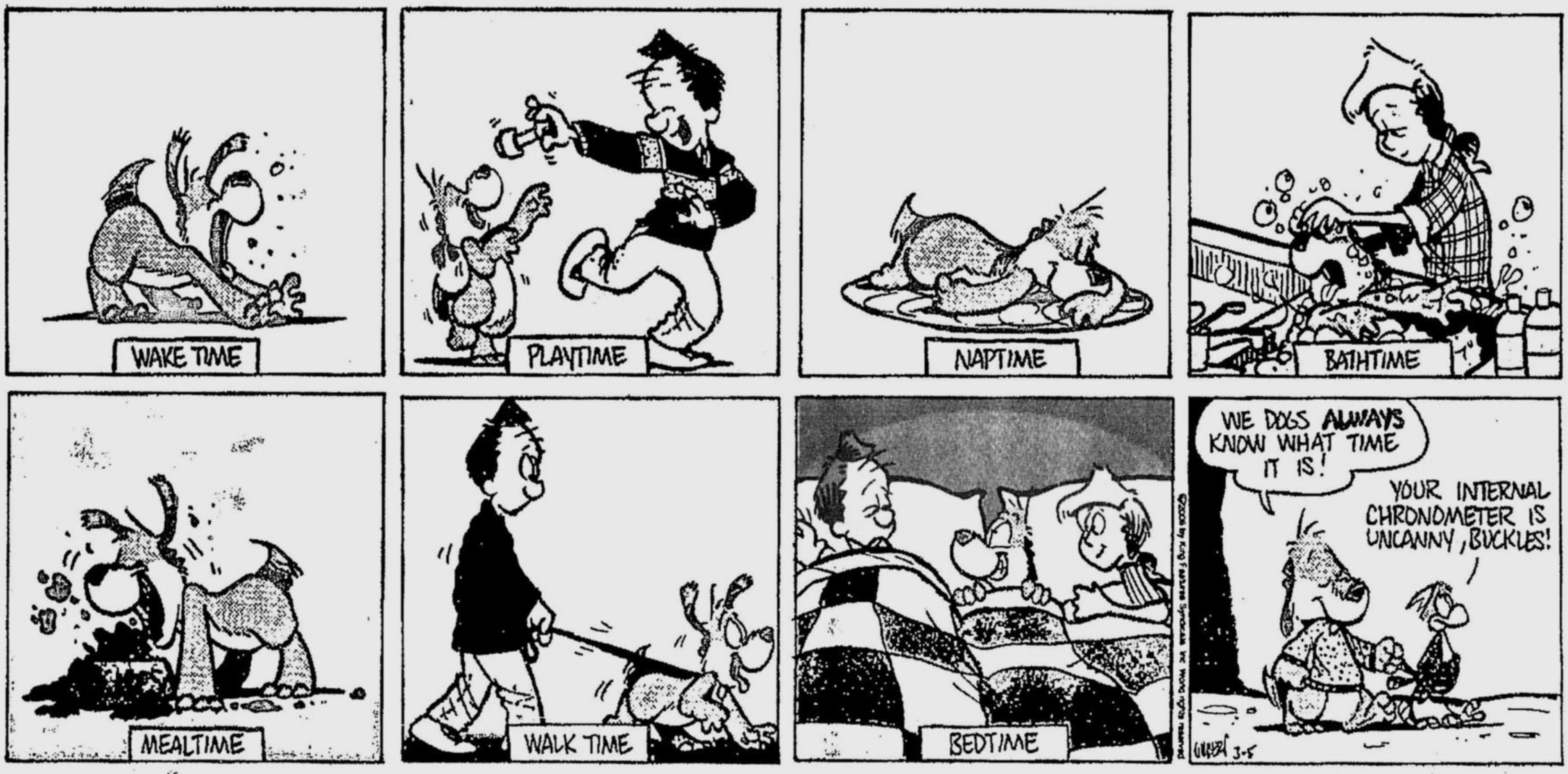
BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

## PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

## BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT

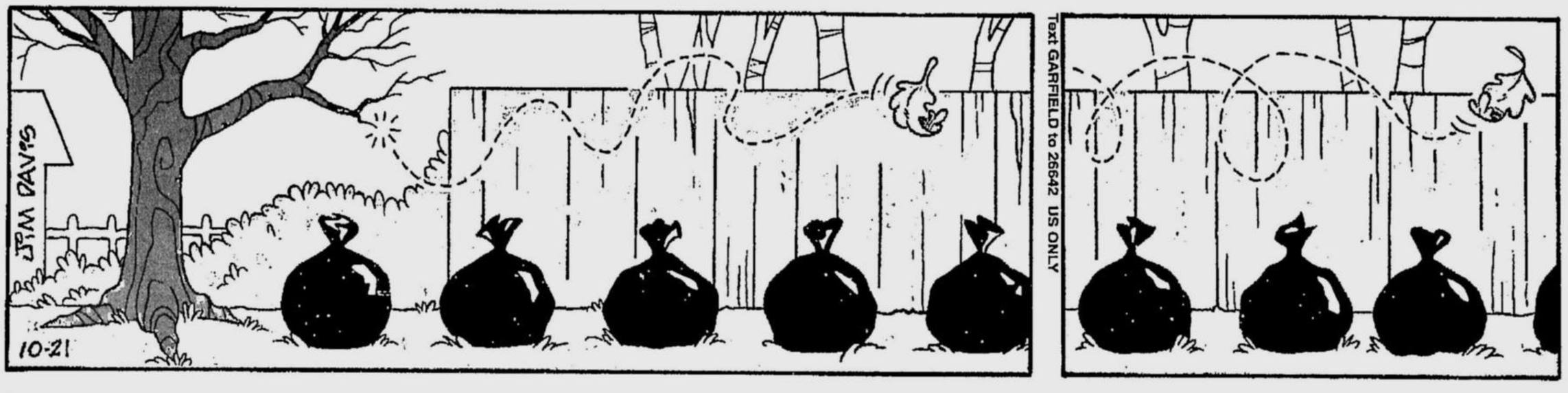


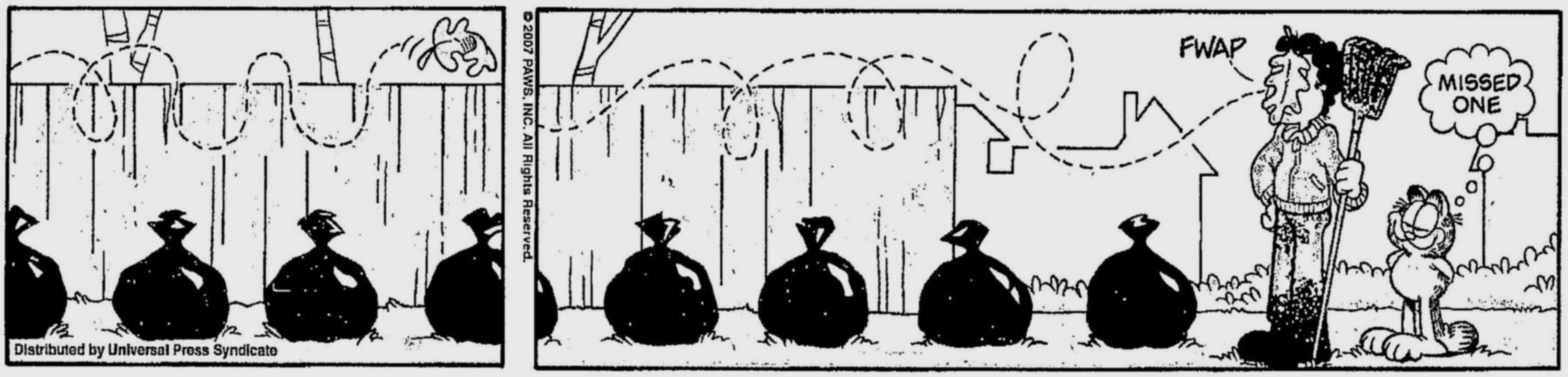

## ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

## GARFIELD

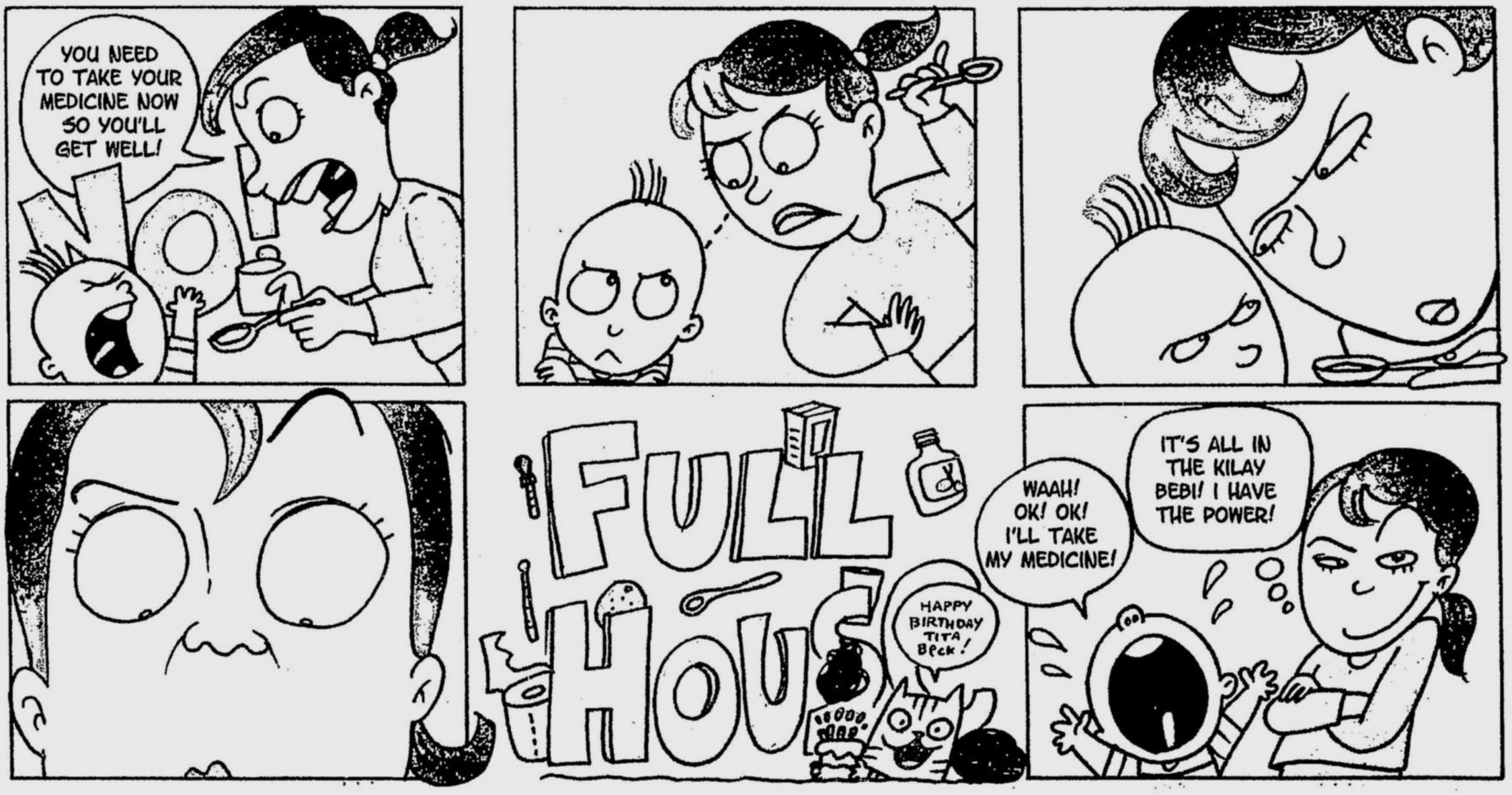
BY JIM DAVIS




## FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



INQUIRER*magazine*

October 21, 2007

FREE

# Fish & Co.

# A Healthy Catch

the right HMO

finding well

inside nose jobs

more!

ESSAY

By Michael Tan

# Desperately Uninformed

Most Americans are hardly aware that Philippine medical schools are patterned after America's system. Most of them have only heard about the nursing board scandal

AFP

Nurses take the oath: At the heart of controversy

PEOPLE are still talking about the "Desperate Housewives" incident, where the character portrayed by Teri Hatcher addressed a medic, thus: "Before we go any further, I want to see your diploma. I just want to make sure it's not from some med school in the Philippines." The remark has been widely seen as an example of racial discrimination, "white Americans" against "brown natives" (stop looking behind you... that's us).

I agree with that analysis to some extent, but feel that there may be more to all this, and that if we want to avoid similar incidents, we better start doing more than just protesting and demanding apologies.

I see these outbreaks as more reflective of a global realpolitik, of a powerful America that intervenes constantly in international affairs but doesn't quite understand the world. Americans suffer from serious ethnocentrism, quick to judge non-Americans by their standards. Why, they tend to look down even at other "whites," western Europeans for example. Remember the sharp disagreements about invading and occupying Iraq, with strong opposition from all over Europe, from the Scandanvian countries down to Spain? The Americans resented this difference in views and came up with all kinds of insulting descriptions of the Europeans who opposed them. At one point, there were even threats to boycott "French fries."

When it comes to Third World countries, the condescension does worsen, with the racial element certainly playing a role. The outcry against Chinese imports is well justified, but to some extent, there is clearly another angle here—resentment in the way that the Chinese, seen in the past as backward, have developed their economy so rapidly.

The "Desperate Housewives" incident reveals how Americans look at the Philippines. And here the situation becomes more complicated. Filipinos are very visible, especially in some states like California, working in a range of jobs. You land in San Francisco or Los Angeles and you hear Philippine languages, or English with a Philippine accent, all over the airport. You drop by a convenience store or Wal-Mart and you run into more Filipinos. And, of course, in hospitals you see Filipinos everywhere as hospital staff.

Note that the Filipino health professional is found not just in Hawaii and California but throughout the country, down to the deep South. So your average American will know of the Filipino mainly because of these health professionals. And because American schools are not very good on geography and history, many Americans will see these Filipinos simply as coming from the Third World, and wonder, with great angst: "How come I'm being treated by someone from a poor country?" Some will fret, as that character in "Desperate Housewives" did, wondering if this person is adequately trained.

What Americans don't know is that many of our medical schools do provide a training at par with American schools. Many Americans are hardly aware that they were the ones who set the model for our medical school training. Most Americans don't know that last year was the centennial of UP's College of Medicine, the first government medical school in the Philippines. That medical school eventually became part of UP, which was originally named the American University of the Philippines.

Name other premiere medical schools and you'd find that they were patterned after America's system. The British colonies use a system where medicine is a baccalaureate degree, with a shorter length of training. We use the American M.D. (medical doctor) system, which is quite intensive with four years of pre-med, four years of med proper, followed by residencies and specialist training. The early medical schools had American instructors; today the faculty are all Filipino but we teach in English and almost all the textbooks are still American. The students train, too, in hospitals that use predominantly American technology.

The same patterns hold as well for the other health professions, including nursing, occupational therapy, speech therapy, dentistry. From the educational system to the licensing exams, we are thoroughly American. That is why we end up exporting so many of our health professionals. The Americans trained us too well, in their image.

But tell that to "Desperate Housewives" scriptwriters and they'd be surprised, still wondering: "Sure, you're using our system,

(continued on page 12)

# Kris: Now, I only trust Facial Care Centre for my skin.

A woman of high standards will not compromise quality. Like Kris Aquino who does not settle for anything less than she deserves, she entrusts her skin to the experts in skincare: Facial Care Centre.

Kris says, "Women should try Facial Care Centre. They deserve it. They have the best non-surgical skin technology, personalized service and such a pleasant environment. If you're a woman who knows you've reached a point in your life where you can afford the best because you've worked hard to attain that, you deserve to be pampered by Facial Care Centre. Discover them for yourself. I'm so glad I did."

Like Kris, trust only Facial Care.

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Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

# An Island of Comfort

While most hospitals have food so bland you'd think a mortician had prepared them, Makati Med's Floating Island offers a well thought-out spread peppered with a dash of humor from the food servers

LOSING one's health is one of the worst tragedies anyone can encounter. Never mind heartbreak, never mind debt; once you're stuck in a room and your heart is monitored, let alone your diet, you can be sure your appetite will find its way out the door.

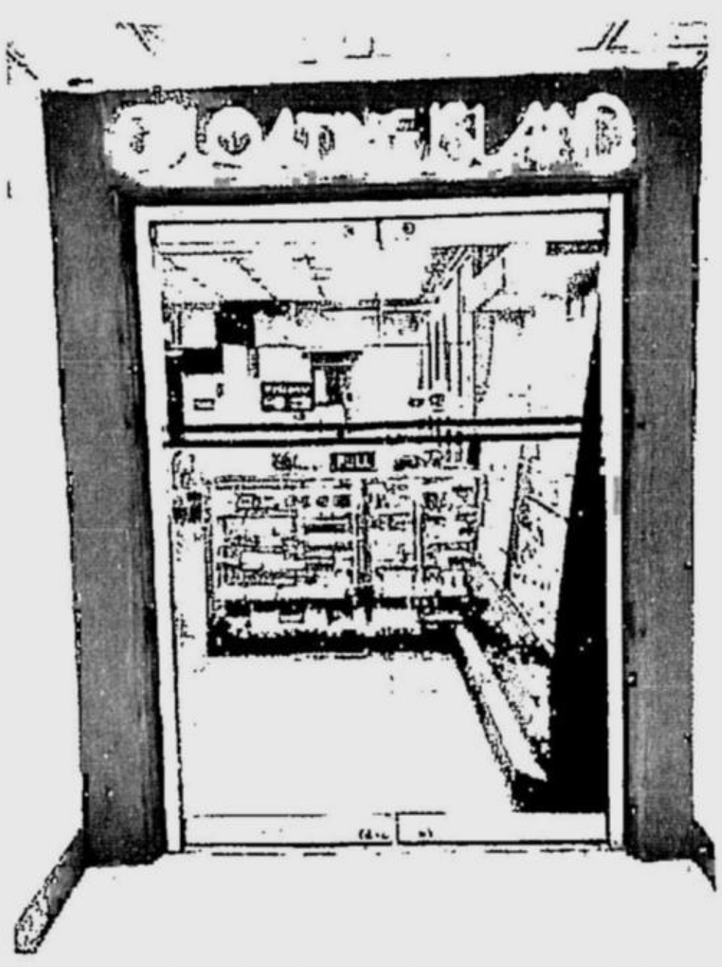
Sometimes it tries to find something familiar: beef steak swimming in brown sauce, with onions for added bite; thin crust margarita pizza with the tomato and the basil shouting for attention; rich chocolate cake with a caramel lining. To its frustration, the hospital canteen instead offers a potato salad so bland you might as well be eating Oslo paper and mayonnaise; a soup that has water and oil as main ingredients; rubber and pale green peas as a meat dish; and the best item on the menu, the only sugar you'll taste for a while, red gelatin for dessert.

So family and friends try to help by bringing in food gifts: a cake tied with a red ribbon (if you stand at the entrance of Makati Med or St. Luke's, I swear you'd notice that every third person who enters is carrying one!), *ensaymada*, tarts, Mrs. Fields or Becky's Kitchen cookies. Some hospitals allow this in moderation; others, like the Heart Center, strictly forbid it.

And you ask, why? This is the time when we need good food the most. This is the time when I need my Becky's Kitchen prune walnut cake. With every little ounce of energy left in you, you want to say, "I am sick and I want my *sinigang na ulo ng* salmon, NOT your *sinebong* (greasy) chicken *tinola*!"

I remember *Lola* Sally's smile when she had my aunt's homemade carrot cake after a nose tube was taken out and she was allowed to chew again. And I remember her delight when we visited Floating Island when she was let out of her room.

Floating Island, the third-floor restaurant of Makati Medical Center, is an exception to the rule. While most hospitals have food that the hospital mortician might have cooked in between counting cadavers, Floating Island offers a well thought-out spread. For breakfast they offer sets, choices of pancake or *tapsilog* meals. For lunch onwards they have pastas, gourmet sandwiches, a Chinese menu, a Japanese menu, a Filipino menu, and basic seafoods and sizzlers. The dishes are predominantly basic but varied enough and executed well enough for even outsiders to appreciate.



**Float our island: Perky waiter Joseph (top) and the Floating Island entrance**

Topping the list is Floating Island's crispy *pata* (deep fried pork leg). "My dad orders this to bring to his office for meetings," offers Dan, an ER resident who frequents the Island. On this point, I must agree that Daddy knows best, as the crispy *pata* is all crispy skin and all juicy *pata* in a pleasantly indulgent way, as long as you consume it as soon as it is served or it may give your jaw a challenge. In fact, the cooks at Floating, some of whom have been with the restaurant for over 10 years, have mastered their meats. The salpicao, although borderline salty, is tender to a T. The chicken steak, smothered with garlic, is also cooked well. These go well with the *adobo* rice, a good heaping of which comes with a few pieces of pork.

The cooks have a tendency to go salt-happy, though, as they did with the *tangigue* on my first visit and the *kilawin na puso ng saging* on my second visit, the *kilawin* totally losing its character there. But the waiters appear to be masters at handling over-fatigued complaining customers, as they will waste no time in having your plate changed should you find your order below par. The sense of humor is pretty amazing, too, and is a fine additional ingredient to the soul food. You will immediately feel better with such opening lines as this one that Joseph, our perky waiter, used: "What would you like to drink, ma'am? I recommend the bottomless water..." (of course, this was followed by a narration of the fresh fruit shakes available). Or when asked what a Medical Sandwich is made of: "Whole wheat bread, stethoscope, syringe... but the Monte Cristo is better, ma'am." Laughter is the best medicine.

Or a shot of whiskey, for some. They used to understand the importance of a drink during moments of intense stress, offering all colors of Johnny, but since the management turnover, liquor has unfortunately been banned from the Island. Nevertheless, they do offer a good break from hospital cooking, becoming what ER Doctor Dan calls "a comfort zone on crazy days at the hospital." And, aside from the crispy *pata*, they also offer variations of *sinigang* and, thankfully, no version of *nagsesebong tinolang manok*! •

*Floating Island. 888-8999 loc. 66 & 8139. 3/F Annex Bldg., Makati Medical Center, Dela Rosa St. cor. Amorsolo. Major credit cards accepted. Wheelchair access via elevator.*

By Tessa R. Salazar

# Homing In on the Right HMO

Getting medical insurance means that a Health Maintenance Organization will cover most of your expenses when illness strikes. But how does one choose which HMO works best?

"Read the fine print," caution Dr. Willie and Liza Ong

INSURANCE companies can cover your life, your home and property, bank deposits, cars, and even specific body parts (remember Jamie Lee Curtis' million-dollar legs?). So why shouldn't you get your health covered? After all, next to death and taxes, illnesses are inevitable. And with medical expenses being what they are, ailing persons need all the help and assistance that a health maintenance organization (HMO) can offer, until they're back on their feet.

Just how important is health insurance and HMOs? Isn't the government's Philhealth coverage enough? How do we choose which HMOs to entrust with our health?

Several doctors outside the HMO circle offer their views: cardiologist Dr. Willie T. Ong, general practitioner Dr. Liza Ong (both from the Movement of Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors), pediatrician Dr. Philip Cruz, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Erickson Zoleta, and fellows from the website www.pinoy.md, a worldwide support group and advocate of Pinoy doctors here and abroad.

Yes, the doctors agree, we all need medical insurance in the Philippines, and here's why: In 2005, the health sector got a measly 1.1 percent of the national budget. And, with the current exodus of health workers and the closing down of several government-owned hospitals, the public is left with no recourse but to get treatment in an understaffed, ill-equipped government hospital, or to pay through the nose at some privately-owned hospital.

There are three options to cover medical costs: out-of-pocket (patients have to pay their own way), HMOs/medical insurance, and Philhealth, the government's version of medical insurance.

Can the ordinary Pinoy afford to pay his medical bills? Taking into account the skyrocketing costs of medical treatment, most likely they can't. This is where medical insurance becomes crucial to give the typical Filipino family financial security when immediate medical attention is needed.

With medical insurance, companies can also provide more affordable health benefits for their employees and their dependents, cites Dr. Liza Ong. Unfortunately, she adds, being a Philhealth member is no longer tenable as far as covering medical expenses is concerned. Better to be a member of both Philhealth and an HMO, as this would assure bigger coverage, the GP advises.

Getting HMO coverage for one's employees is also more cost-effective and limits the doctors' fees as well, concurs Dr. Willie Ong.

So how do these complementary HMOs work together? Normally, the Philhealth coverage would be deducted from the treatment and room expenses, with the excess expenses to be covered by the company's or the individual's HMO. Any outstanding amount would then have to be paid for by the patient out-of-pocket.

A Philhealth voluntary member has a fixed contribution of P300 per quarter. Contributions or premiums from government and private employees range from P100 to P300 depending on their salary. The benefit packages for room and board range from P200 to P400 a day The Philhealth website http://www.philhealth.gov.ph/ provides a detailed contribution and benefits breakdown for its members.

Be advised, though, that there's a limit to how much Philhealth will cover in medicine bills, with the maximum amount pegged at about P35,000. Most HMOs also require prospective members to become Philhealth members first.

So, how does one go about choosing the right HMO?

Cruz estimates that HMO premium contributions range from P300 to P500 a month for a coverage of P50,000 to P70,000. For dreaded diseases, he estimates the coverage to range from P100,000 to P300,000.

Ong advises prospective members to read the fine print in HMO contracts. Find out what diseases are covered and what aren't. Some HMOs do not cover expenses for pregnancies, heart diseases, high blood pressure, congenital problems, or any medical condition pre-existing at the time one signs the contract. Prospective members must also find out if the HMO will cover accidents not related to work. It is wise as well to do background checks

(continued on page 15)

# Rooting for Wellness

Conventional medicine doesn't have all the answers. Sometimes looking for the root cause of diseases and using natural therapies can help the healing process

Text and photographs by Ross Harper-Alonso

WELLNESS is the buzzword in health these days, but it is also one of the least understood. Wellness generally means the complete integration of mind, body and spirit that results in an overall feeling of well being. It is a process, a lifestyle that acknowledges the importance of diet, abstention from harmful substances, exercise, relaxation and meditation. It is also used in the context of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), a new science that promotes whole person care or a wholistic approach that offers a choice of natural treatments in addition to conventional medicine.

Here's a list of some of the centers of wellness that combine mainstream medicine with natural therapies to restore and maintain one's health and well being.

**1. Tiaong Breast Haven and Detoxification Center, Municipality of Tiaong, Quezon (above)**

Two years after the death of his wife, Rosa Francia-Meneses, founder of the Philippine Breast Cancer Network in the Philippines, Danny Meneses built the country's only recovery center for breast cancer warriors in one corner of philanthropists Rolly and Beng Manalo's farm in Tiaong, Quezon.

Nestled on a mountain slope and surrounded by lush vegetation, this rustic and peaceful sanctuary is open for women looking for respite from urban stress and those who want to learn natural methods to improve their breast health.

*Contact: Philippine Breast Cancer Network (PBCN); Cristy Sibonga: 426-3197 & 0918-9087226; Danny Meneses: 0920-9099212; Web Site: www.pbcn.org*

**2. Gaba BioDental Clinic, #11 Kentucky Street, Alabang 400 Village, Muntinlupa City (above)**

The atmosphere in the Gaba Clinic is as soothing as the soft music and gurgling of water from the pond in the garden. The flat screen monitor in the waiting area subtly shows the dangers of using metal and mercury in dentistry. This short introduction to Biological Dentistry helps patients understand the integration of natural healing into traditional dentistry. Instead of just treating dental problems, Dr. Gaba roots out the cause of the systemic pain or disease. "Imagine a train and the many stations it stops at," this dentist begins."The stations are the organs of the body that are all interconnected, and the train is the illness. This is why I need to know the patient's whole health history. I don't separate the tooth from the rest of the body," he explains. The clinic opts for the least invasive, traumatic and toxic means of diagnosis and treatment. Everything used in the clinic, says Dr. Gaba, is metal-free and made from natural ingredients. Corrosive products and toxins which are present in specific fillings, dentures, crowns and poorly treated braces may damage organs and affect other areas of the body. To support the medical treatment with a totally wholistic and health-focused practice, Dr. Gaba uses Reiki, an energy therapy and healing art that helps patients relax, relieves pain or inflammation and accelerates the body's natural ability to heal physical ailments.

*For appointments and inquiries, please call: Dr. Nelson Mari Gaba, tel. (02) 807-2696.*

**3. Health Asia Medical Clinic, Unit 1-F G/F Legaspi Tower 100, 148 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Because diet should be a priority in treatment and the maintenance of one's health, this clinic focuses on the nutrition side of wellness. Armed with a background in Biochemistry, Dr. Rommel Tinio helps patients understand how the body works, what their systems need and the importance of eliminating wastes through natural therapies. Everyone has customized needs, which explains why regular consultations can last up to half a day for cancer patients. "I focus on the whole person. It's not enough that I address patients' nutritional needs, but their minds and spirits as well," says Dr. Tinio. "This is often the missing link when treating patients. I acknowledge the emotions, relationships they have with other people and the environment around them."

Obese and diabetic children have become regulars at the clinic, thanks to parents who still believe that a healthy child is a fat child, or those whose unhealthy lifestyles have become the model for their children. At the clinic, families and people with ailments are eased into a lifestyle change and taught to include the right portions of carbohydrates, proteins and vegetables into their diet. Constant coaching is important so patients don't become dependent on the clinic to eat and live right. Treatments are also designed to continue at home for working people who cannot afford to spend a lot of time at the clinic.

To reverse the condition of the body, slow detox or cleaning up is used, a process that takes up to three months to complete. Lymphatic Drainage Therapy is used to stimulate lymph and intestinal fluid circulation which are critical for detoxification. Vitamin C infusion is also used to counter the unhealthy elements present in urban living, such as pollutants,

stress, artificial additives and preservatives. "Because of genetic differences, some people have a higher demand for vitamin C," explains Dr. Tinio. "It's very important to know what and how much vitamin supplements you're taking, if they overlap, and if they're doing you some good."

*For inquiries about treatment and therapies, call Drs. Rommel and Glory Jaine Tinio, tel: (02) 8137287.*

**4. Edna S. Lao MD Clinic, 40-B Maayusin St., UP Village, Quezon City (above)**

Comfortable lounge chairs face a glass window with cascading water in one area of the clinic. This is the Chelation Therapy room, simply put, "a body tune up to recondition and rebuild." The therapy is a three-hour treatment performed by using a man-made amino acid called EDTA (Ethylene Diamine Tetraacetic Acid), used in lead poisoning, through intravenous drip. EDTA works best for circulation problems and hardening of the arteries, says Dr. Edna Sasing Lao. "I trained in Internal Medicine after graduating from medical school but became an Integrative Doctor by accident," she admits. "Years ago, my mother had a tumor in her liver and, having come from the province, she refused any kind of Western medicine or surgery and preferred alternative medicine. Her condition was reversed by major lifestyle changes, controlling her diet, cleansing her kidneys, drinking *sambong* and *banaba* tea, etc. These natural treatments cured her and she's still living a healthy, happy life now, 15 years after, in her late seventies. This personal experience forced me to study the other side of the coin and eventually convinced me to shift (to natural therapies)."

Dr. Lao keeps shelves of neatly lined bottles of wheatgrass for blood cleansing, psillium for colon cleansing, silymarin for liver cleansing, probiotics to replenish good bacteria in the intestines, barley for chlorophyll, and other natural herbs often found in capsule form. She also has a Meridian Acupuncture doll on hand to help patients understand how they will be treated from a wholistic perspective. "When cancer patients come to me, I don't just treat the cancer. I have to find the cause of the cancer first. The condition of the organs will tell me," Dr. Lao points out. "I go through the process of checking which organ is the culprit. If the liver or intestines are dirty then they undergo cleansing until the immune system recovers."

Medical problems are addressed from the root. Instead of just focusing on a symptom like psoriasis, the patient's medication, diet, mental state, environment and lifestyle are analyzed since they are related and can affect one's life.

"I become physician, guidance counselor, mother confessor and therapist to my patients," Dr. Lao shares. "It takes a lot of time and energy but this is all part of integrative therapies and whole person care: caring for the mind, body and spirit as one."

*For appointments and inquiries, please call Dr. Edna Sasing-Lao at tel: (02) 4355627.*

**5. Medical Acupuncture and Acupressure, Meridian Balancing Treatment Clinic, Unit 1508 Herrera Cityland Towers, Rufino St. corner Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City (above)**

Patients are asked to take off their shoes and socks inside the clinic and go barefoot or put on a pair of slippers. "Bad energies accumulate in the body due to stress," says Dr. Alfonso Lagaya. "The feet are good exit points of bad energies and entry points of good ones." The former director-general of the Department of Health's Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care doesn't look older than 40 and is the Energizer Bunny personified. One feels the positive energy as Dr. Lagaya's enthusiastic and gentle voice fills the room. He has developed a treatment that combines medical acupuncture, one of the elements that make up the discipline referred to as Traditional Chinese Medicine. Thin needles are inserted into specific body points with the use of acupressure. This technique is related to acupuncture wherein energies of the body are regulated by manipulating specific points on the body.

"I use these two techniques to release obstructions to the meridian flow," Dr. Lagaya says, reaching for a Meridian Acupressure doll. "It is important for energy to flow freely through the meridian pathways, or an imbalance in the body will affect the internal organs and cause pain or other ailments. What do you feel when I press here?" he asks a patient, applying pressure near her big toe. "It hurts," the patient winces. "That's your liver complaining," the doctor says, tracing the connection between the organs and the rest of body.

Dr. Lagaya spends a minimum of three hours with each patient, devoting equal attention to the patients' mind, body and spirit. "All are vital to a person's health and it's important to understand that caring for oneself should happen before lab results show abnormalities," he stresses.

The acupuncture and acupressure treatment is a physical combination that gives new meaning to the cliché "I can feel the blood flowing through my veins." It relieves pain and the body feels rejuvenated as if it was both nourished with a mega dose of vitamins and wrapped in a calming blanket of good thoughts.

"Meridian Balancing Treatment is the Pinoy version of Ying and Yang. *Init at lamig* (heat and cold)," the doctor points out. "By combining mainstream medicine and the proper use of traditional medicine, I have a better batting average to treat chronic illness and improve the quality of life of patients. I don't tell them to stop taking the medications their doctors prescribed. Complementary medicine is an addition, not a replacement, to conventional medicine." •

*For appointments and inquiries, please call Dr. Alfonso Lagaya, mobile number 0917-8192959.*

# The Real Alternative

Medicine should go beyond the textbook, believes gastroenterologist Dr. Victoriano Lim, who studies and writes about natural cures that have been with us for centuries

By Ruel S. De Vera

THERE is a valuable, often unseen, depth in everything around us—unseen, hence overlooked. And yet, this is a depth that heals, and thus must be tapped into.

This is the philosophy behind Complementary and Alternative Medicine or CAM, explains Dr. Victoriano Yu Lim, the country's frontliner in the practice today.

At the outset, the 69-year-old physician is quick to point out that CAM is not simply about dietary supplements.

"Dietary supplements as defined by the United States FDA (Food and Drug Administration) refers to any product in capsule, tablet or liquid form that provides essential nutrients, such as vitamins, essential minerals, protein, herbs or other botanicals," he explains. CAM, on the other hand, is broader, referring to "medical and health care practices that are not an integral part of conventional, or Western, medicine," including acupuncture, aromatherapy and *qijong*.

That means, literally, a world of possibilities, adds the doctor, who is also a professor in the Gastroenterology Section of the Department of Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas' Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

A simple event 25 years ago led Lim to pursue the CAM path. "My wife, Siok-Quan Lim, requested me to attend a 'herbal product' presentation, and my eyes were opened to the other options in treating patients," he recalls. "I saw how Mother Nature, with its natural foods and nutrients, can augment Western medicine."

Getting to that epiphany was a journey in both the expected and unexpected. The second of five children of merchant Lim Eng Biao and teacher Cristina Yu Hian Ty,

**Pioneer: Lim at his clinic**

Lim had always wanted to be a doctor. Growing up in Masbate and Manila, he saw how many impoverished Filipinos were afflicted by various diseases, especially digestive illnesses. It was in this area that he decided to specialize.

"At the UP College of Medicine, my ideal professor was a successful pioneering gastroenterologist," he recalls. "And I realized that this is the field where modern medicine can progress very rapidly, including in terms of instrumentation like endoscopies."

After medical studies at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, Lim attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and was awarded a fellowship in Gastroenterology in Salt Lake City, Utah. He returned to Manila in 1970 and, with his family's savings, purchased advanced diagnostic equipment from Japan and began a private practice in Binondo. His practice thrived, and today he has a busy clinic at the UST Hospital.

Over the last 25 years or so, however, he has pursued medical breakthroughs beyond his hospital practice, with his inquiries into alternative methods. The methods, he notes, are not really new and may have, in fact, been tried previously.

"Filipinos have always used Oriental medicines and methods," Lim explains. "Our ancestors treated disease and illness with native medicinal plants, from local skin patches to the oral intake of boiled leaves, like guava." Like these native cures, he adds, "CAM products are a lot cheaper than Western medicines, and have been around even before generic drugs were made available. Not very many people know, for instance, that Erythromycin, as Ilotysin, was developed in Iloilo, but its patent was sold to the Americans. This is a classic example of an herb becoming Western medicine."

Lim notes that in 1997, Republic Act 8423 or the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act of 1997 established the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC) that studies CAM in the country. Despite efforts by the public and private sectors, Lim feels that much more needs to be done to advance CAM in the country. CAM centers can be established in medical schools, for one.

"A few interested and committed teachers can serve as a pilot group," he notes. He believes that, "when properly studied and used, CAM can enhance many Western medical practices. But first, it needs to be integrated into Western medicine in an inclusive, intensive and systematic fashion."

Adds Lim: "CAM products can set the ground for rapid recovery in infections, modified cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases, as well as strengthen the immunity of cancer patients."

On the other hand, the doctor cautions against quick leaps of faith into new alternative cure-alls that come along. "People must be aware of which CAM products are meritorious—definitely those with clinical studies, comparative and/or randomized studies or trials—and those which are harmful. They should look out for the adverse effects of each product, singly or in combination," he warns. "Mere testimonial success or anecdotal reports should not be taken as 'gospel truth.'"

Those seeking more information on CAM can turn to Lim's book, "Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Medicine" (UST Publishing House, 2006), which received the 2006 National Book Award for Science.

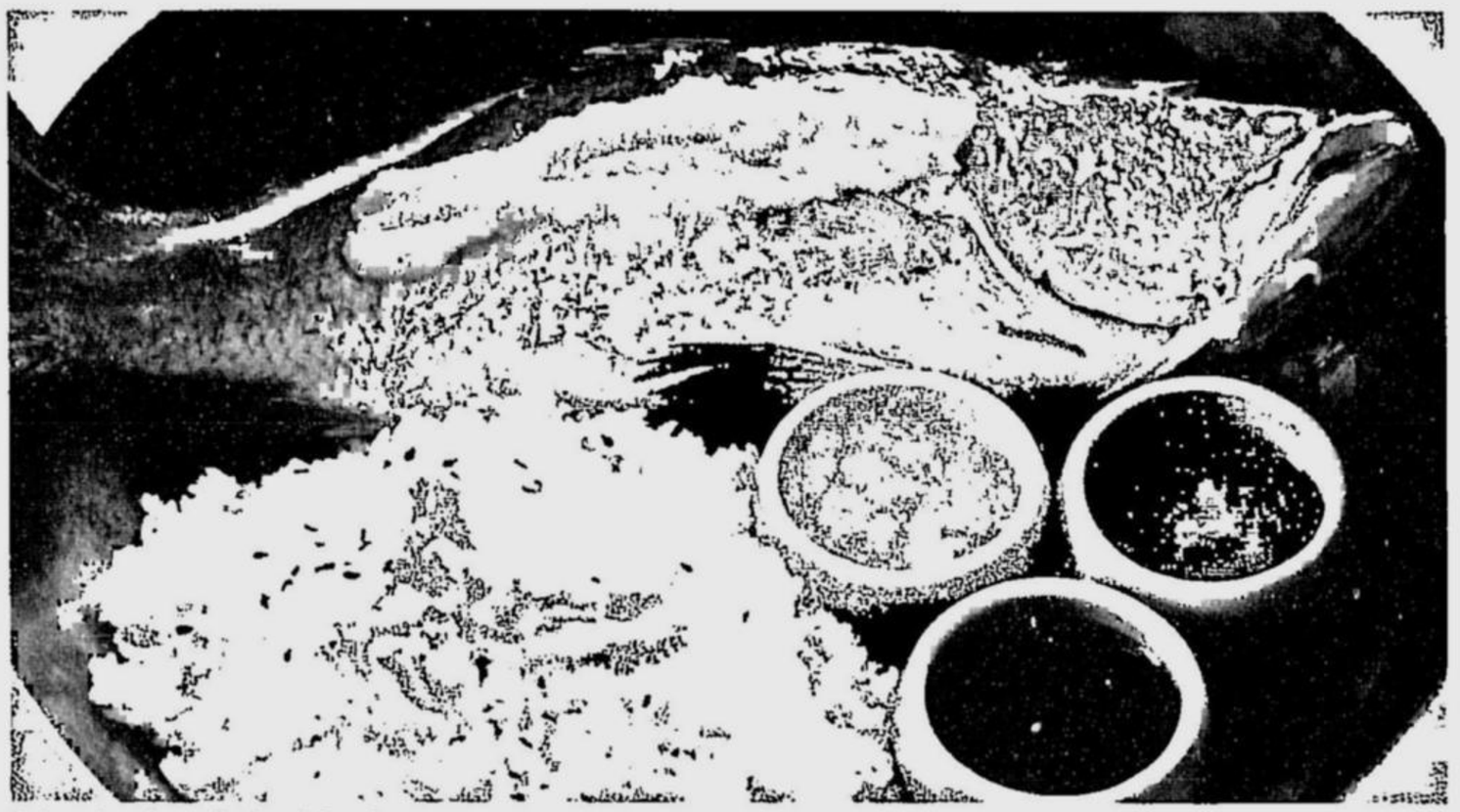
"I've always loved to write," Lim shares. "Eventually, I realized that a well-written book is a powerful instrument in teaching and in trying to start anything, no matter

(continued on page 15)

Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

# Fish & Co.'s Great Catch

## Or how to indulge in extravagantly tasty dishes and still have a healthy diet



**Island prize: Baked Seabass**

EATING out to celebrate often translates into indulgence and pushing back, if only for the moment, health and weight concerns.

Fortunately, at Fish & Co., eating well means just that: good food that's good for you. After all, fish has been proven to be the perfect healthy diet food that's low in saturated fat and calories, and high in omega-3 oils and essential minerals. Fish is also fabulous food that can be cooked in a variety of ways to offer a whole range of tastes and textures.

The menu at Fish & Co. is proof of this. Popular for the "Best Fish & Chips in Town," the restaurant's menu is a virtual treasure trove of wonderful seafood dishes served in a pan.

This season, Fish & Co. introduces four new dishes that should give you four more reasons to drop by. Island Spice, as the new dishes are aptly called, are Fish & Co.'s versions of hometown Asian favorites: Baked Seabass, Seafood Paella, Hainanese Style Chicken, and Seafood Curry.

Stuffed with oriental herbs and spices and served with ginger and long grain rice, Baked Seabass quickly makes you forget the gloominess of the cold "ber" months as it perks up your mood. Just as bracing is the Seafood Curry slowly braised in a KL spicy red coconut curry sauce served on top of steamed long grain rice. For diners who prefer a gentler kick in the gut, a mild version of this dish is also offered.

Those craving classic Seafood Paella can try the hearty version at Fish & Co.—delectable fish fillet, Black Tiger Prawns and New Zealand mussels baked with long grain rice in a unique coconut saffron broth.

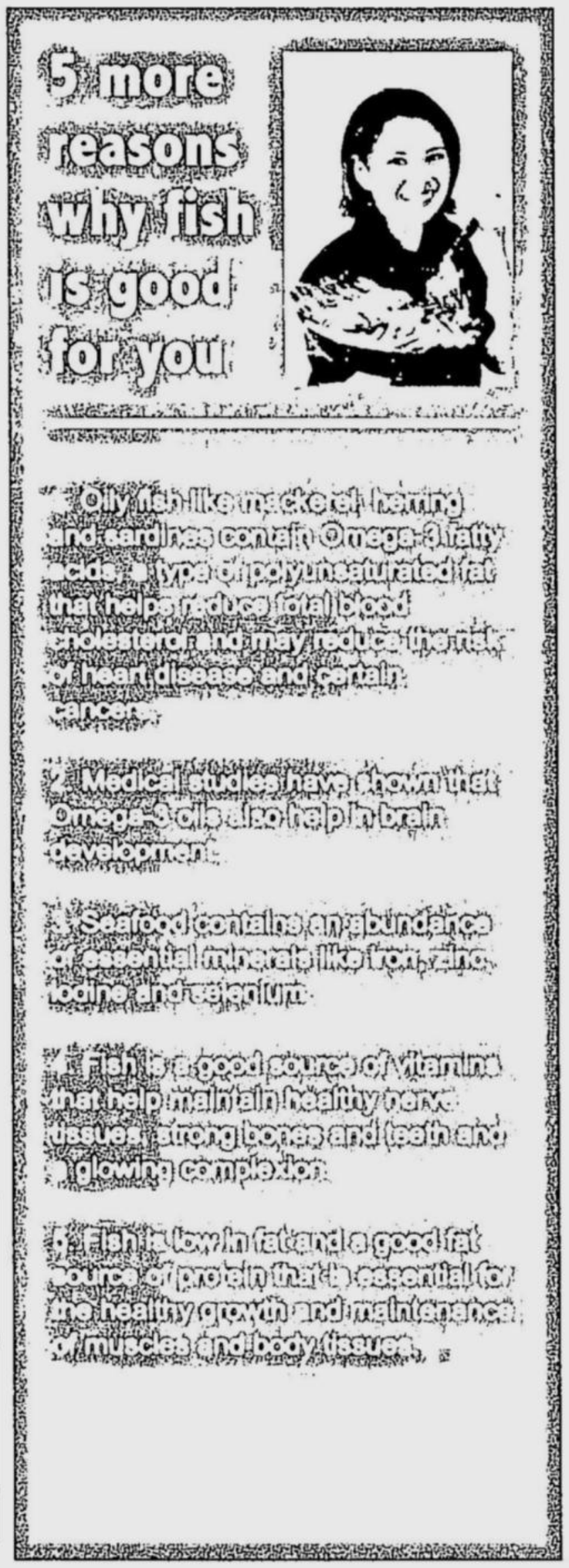
Just as healthy is the Hainanese Style Chicken, a very comforting and warming meal that features poached tender half chicken served with savory ginger rice and traditional dipping sauces. This dish comes with a bowl of Hainanese Style Chicken broth served hot while you eat.

The new dishes are a sumptuous addition to a spread that already sizzles with ol' indulgent favorites like Prawn Trellis—deep-fried prawns wrapped in vermicelli and served with a spicy mango vinaigrette—and Pasta & Shrimp Salad, totally yummy shrimps and chilled spaghetti in sesame mayonnaise. There's also salmon (baked, grilled or served cajun style), Black Pepper Mahi-Mahi (grilled on banana leaves and topped with black pepper sauce), and the Fish Collar (chunky and juicy swordfish collar served with spicy mango vinaigrette). Fish & Co.'s Seafood Platter is also perfect for sharing. It's a platter of seasonal fish, calamari, prawns and New Zealand mussels served altogether in a pan.

For pasta fanatics, this casual dining place offers special seafood pasta dishes as well. There's Mussels Penne with Garlic or Lemon Cream, Prawns Fettuccini with Chili Cream, and Seafood Spaghetti Marinara with fresh New Zealand mussels, tiger prawns, calamari and fresh fish in tomato basil sauce.

Inspired by the simple practice of South African fishermen who immediately cook their catch in a pan, everything at Fish & Co. is served similarly. Fried, grilled or baked, Fish & Co.'s seafood comes with wonderful sauces, dips & chips.

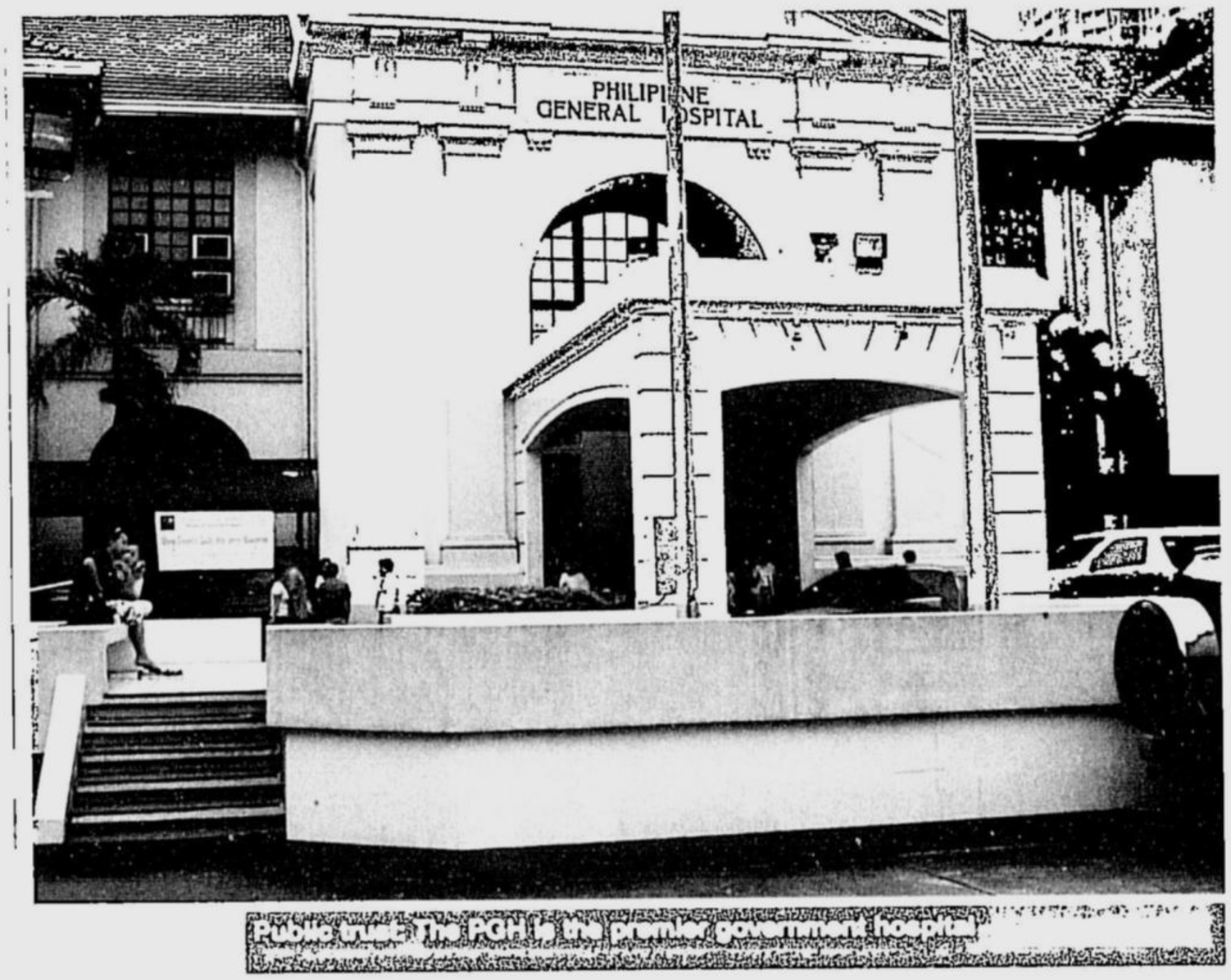
With its relaxed and comfortable ambience, friendly service and alert staff, Fish & Co. definitely gives diners enough reason to relish its flavorful and healthy dishes at its three Metro Manila outlets: Greenbelt, Shangri-la Edsa Mall and SM Mall of Asia.



# How charitable are charity hospitals?

For most Filipinos who can hardly afford aspirin, charity wards seem to spell salvation in times of illness. Not anymore, with patients being asked to pay for lab procedures, supplies, medicines and the use of the operating room. But do indigent patients really have a choice?

Text and photographs by Mio de la Cruz




PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL

HEALTH is wealth. But sickness and injury, and the accompanying diagnosis and treatment that come from a doctor and a hospital, are the ultimate luxury that majority of Filipinos can ill afford.

And yet, as mortals, we are vulnerable to disease, age and bad genes. Despite our best efforts, we sometimes find ourselves confined in hospital for diagnosis, treatment and medication.

It wouldn't be too bad if one has a health insurance or a hefty bank account; otherwise one is in for a shock, considering the decreasing number of hospitals and health workers, and the corresponding rise in the cost of healthcare in the country. According to the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), the number of hospitals in the country decreased by 55 per cent over the last 20 years, from 2,000 in 1987 to only 890 today. Hospital owners further warn that with the signing into law of R.A. 9435, which makes it unlawful for hospitals to detain patients over unpaid bills, more private hospitals may be forced to shut down. Consequently, more indigent patients may be expected to rely heavily on government hospitals for their healthcare needs.

Teresita Manlimos, 69, a breast cancer patient, traveled all the way from Surigao in Mindanao to Manila to avail herself of services at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH). "We came here because hospitals in our province do not have qualified doctors and medical facilities to properly diagnose and treat my mother's condition," explains Lorena, Manlimos' daughter-in-law. Lorena estimates that she has spent close to P30,000 for the CT scan, laboratory fees, medicines, and food, after almost a month of hospital confinement. It's a huge amount, and one they had difficulty raising, but she knows it could be much higher if her mother-in-law had gone to a private hospital.

This year's P11.5 billion budget for health represents a measly one percent of the national budget of P1.126 trillion. This figure translates to only 36 centavos a day per citizen, according to party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, who criticizes the government's budgetary priorities, with the military being given more funding than health.

The annual budget for PGH, the country's premier government hospital, has remained at P1 billion since 2003, despite escalating operational costs that are now estimated at P3 billion a year. The expenses are intended for the purchase and upkeep of medical equipment, housekeeping and maintenance, and to provide free medical consultation and services, room and board for in-patients. The 2005 records show that the hospital treated over 70,000 outpatients, admitted 6,650 charity inpatients, and provided surgery, including organ transplants, for over 5,000 patients.

Charity patients at the PGH are generally satisfied by the quality of doctors who attend to them and the equipment available to diagnose or treat their ailments. Renato Masilang, 60, who underwent major surgery at the PGH and was recuperating at the charity ward prior to his release, was all praises for the service of the PGH staff. "The doctors are very good even though they were not charging me for their services," said the retired sandal-maker from Gapan, Nueva Ecija. "It's difficult to get admitted here because the hospital prioritizes emergency cases, but I'm glad I made it."

To make up for the annual deficit and to expand its services to as many patients as possible, the PGH management has begun collecting fees for services that used to be free, like the use of the operating room which now costs P1,500. The cost of the "blue cards," which record consultations and confinements of patients, has also been reportedly raised from P7 to P15. Since 2005, the hospital has embarked on a major program to "hotelize" its pay ward, transforming it into a major revenue center to support the charity ward. Paying patients are charged from P450 per day for a six-person ward to P2,500 a day for an exclusive suite.

Unfortunately, conditions at the PGH are an exception rather than the rule among public hospitals. The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, a maternity and child healthcare facility in the populous Sta. Cruz District in Manila, is one of many

government hospitals trying to make do on their meager budget and resources. Unable to increase its bed capacity despite the increasing number of indigent patients, the hospital often resorts to assigning two patients on one bed. Patients are likewise advised to bring their own linen and purchase their own medicine.

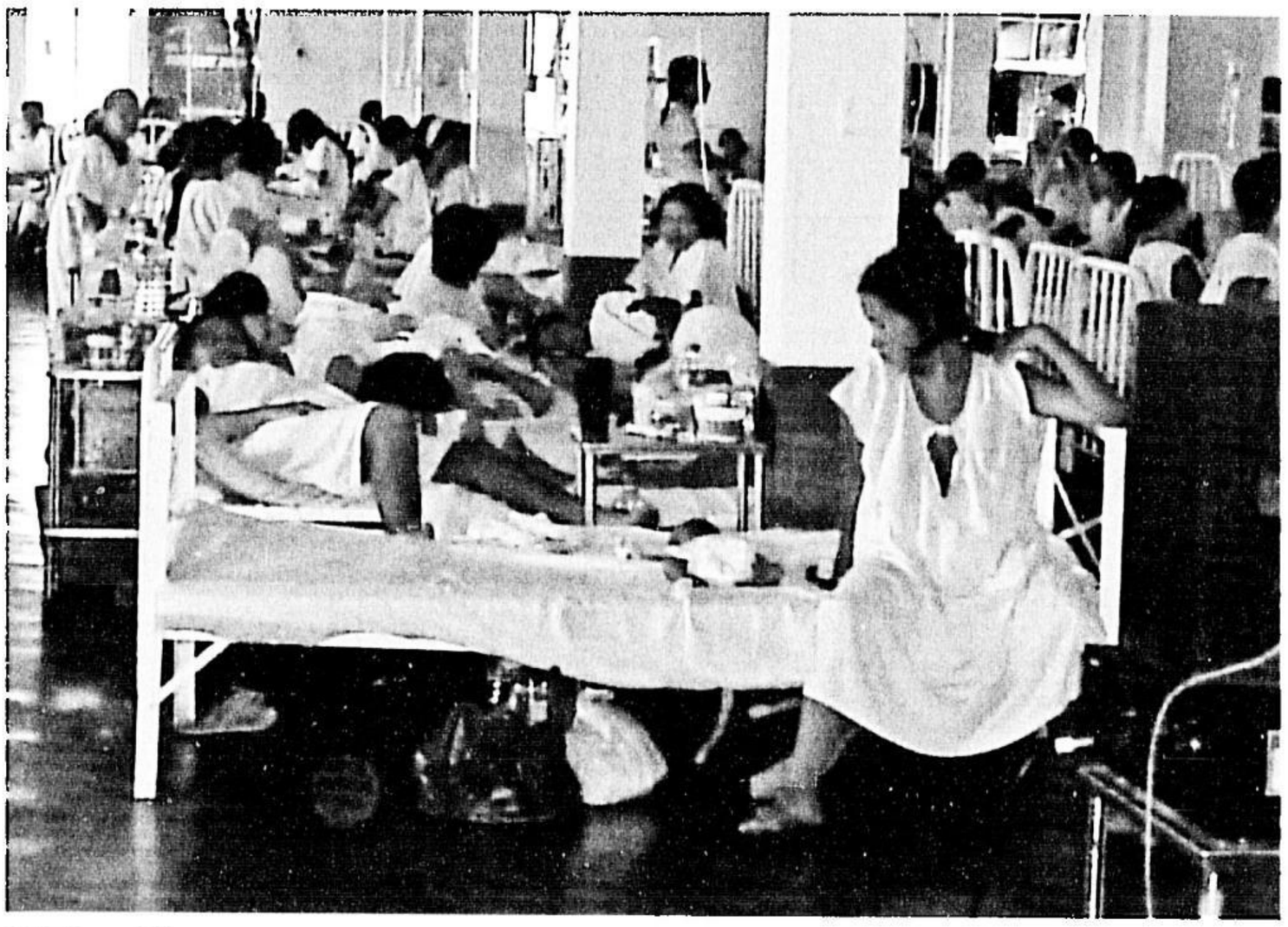
Consequently, new mothers are hardly given enough time to recover after childbirth and are immediately discharged to accommodate new patients. "It's very difficult," says one mother. "If only I had the money, I would not have to endure this." But the alternative was to seek admission in a private hospital, where childbirth and confinement would have cost her from P10,000 to P100,000.

Despite the hospital's scant resources, doctors at Fabella take pride in the fact that they never turn away a single patient as they continue to enjoy the reputation of being the hospital of choice among indigent mothers. Up to 100 babies are born here everyday.

Given the scenario of jampacked crowds and long waiting lists in most government hospitals, many patients would rather be admitted in the charity wards of private hospitals. Unfortunately, private hospitals are expectedly not as welcoming of indigent patients as they are of paying ones. To address this problem, laws have to be passed to compel private hospitals to accept indigent patients even without a cash deposit and to allow them to check out without being detained for non-payment of medical bills.

The clinical divisions of private hospitals are used by medical and nursing students for training and are, therefore, inexpensive—but still not free. Most private charity hospitals do not charge their patients for the use of beds, doctors' services, and meals, but collect fees for laboratory procedures, operating room, supplies, X-rays and other diagnostic tests at subsidized rates. While most government hospitals offer medicines at reduced prices or even free of charge, some private hospitals require their charity inpatients to purchase their medicine only at the pharmacies they operate.

The relatives of a heart patient at the charity ward of a university-based hospital in Manila grew frantic when they learned that they would have to cough up over P16,000 for a week of confinement. "We still need to source this money from the PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes



**Jampacked: Indigent patients at Fabella (above); Masilang (left): Satisfied with PGH services**

Office)," sighs the patient's son as he showed the bill for his father's hospitalization, most of which was for the use of a nebulizer.

If patients and their relatives are unable to come up with the money from their own pocket or savings, which statistics say happens 40 per cent of the time, they are are advised to approach politicians or the PCSO for assistance. The PCSO provides medical assistance to individual patients through the issuance of a guarantee letter to hospitals, indicating that the agency assumes the obligation of settling the cost of hospitalization, including medicines, diagnostic procedures, blood, and other medical or surgical supplies.

Without full settlement of the bill, or at least a guarantee from the PCSO, many private hospitals have resorted to detaining their patients or, in case of death, the cadavers, until medical bills are paid.

"We need to survive, too," says Dr. Rustico Jimenez, spokesman of the Private Hospital Association of the Philippines (PHAP), in a published statement expressing the association's objection to RA 9439. "We also have utility bills to settle, staff salaries to pay, hospital equipment to amortize, and suppliers to pay." Doctors claim that only 10 percent of those who issue a promissory note to pay their bills at a later date honor their commitments.

Members of the PHAP had planned to hold "hospital holidays" to compel the Department of Health (DOH) to issue acceptable terms in the implementing rules and regulations of the new law, but relented at the last minute when other groups argued that "human dignity takes precedence over anyone's pecuniary interest."

While the detention issue may have been clearly resolved in favor of patients, hospital owners have clearly and succinctly sent a cold and chilling warning: the Philippine healthcare system needs emergency attention, especially in charity cases, if it is to remain as the virtual lifeline of most Filipinos. •

# SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

**Conceptis SudoKu** By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10.21

Answers in PDI, Oct. 22 issue

**Answer to previous puzzle**

PDI, Oct. 20

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sim@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher: Leica R. Carpo
Executive Editor: Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera
Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho
Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria
Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe
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**Desperately Uninformed** (from page 2)

but can you ever be as good as we are?"

And really, if they have doubts, it's also because they rarely hear about the Philippines in the news. Certainly, they don't know about how we train medical students. When we make it to the news it's because a volcano erupted, or we had an earthquake, or a new multi-million dollar corruption scandal. Some may have heard about the nursing licensure scandal in 2006. They'll hear as well of, maybe even meet, doctors who go back to school to take nursing so they can go to America. Earlier this year I took a taxi to the San Francisco airport and the driver told me he knew some Filipinos, and all they ever told him was how bad it was back home.

We should take offense about the "Desperate Housewives" segment. But we should check too on how we present ourselves to America and to the world, and be more introspective. The President was apparently elated when US President George Bush called out to her at an official summit: "Hey Gloria!" and when former President Bill Clinton declared at a public forum that everyone was afraid of her. I'd read between the lines. •

*Michael Tan is a medical anthropologist and Inquirer columnist. He also lectures at the medical schools of UP and Ateneo.*

## Figure It Out

**P165.2 billion:** RP's total health expenditure in 2004

**3.2 percent:** Budget allocation for health out of RP's Gross National Product in 2004, way below the 5 percent standard set by the World Health Organization for developing countries

**$10.7 (about P500):** The government's health budget for every Filipino in 2002

**$58 (about P2,600):** Burma's per capita health budget in 2002

**$2,022 (about P91,000):** Japan's per capita health budget in 2002

**24:** Infant mortality rate in 2006 (per 1,000 live births)

**49:** Infant mortality rate in 1995 (per 1,000 live births)

**702:** Total number of licensed government hospitals and other health facilities in RP in 2005

**2:** Number of barangay health stations per 10,000 population in RP in 2005

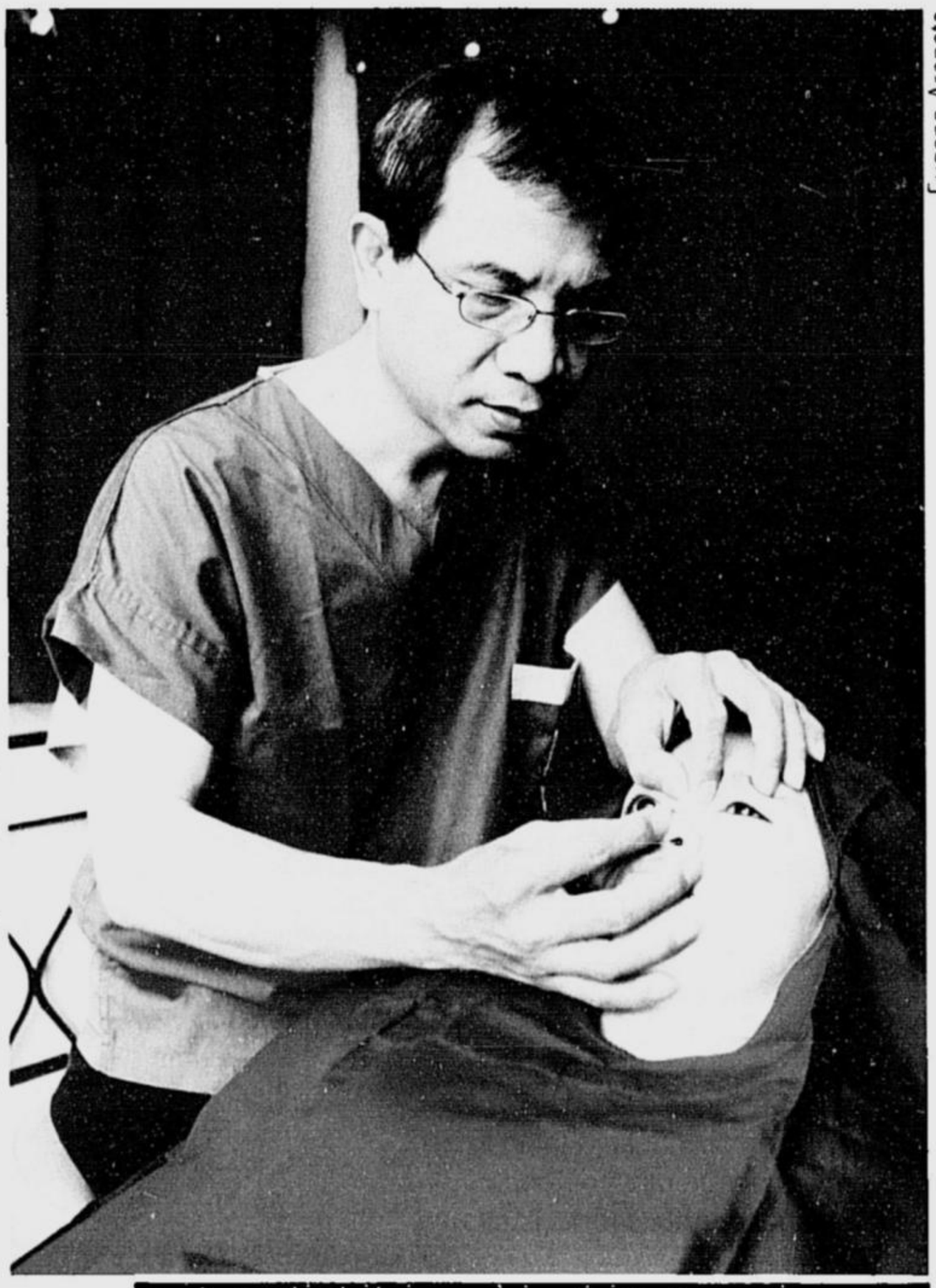
**Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research**

Source: Inquirer Archives, Field Health Service Information System 2005 Annual Report, National Statistical Coordination Board

By Raquel P. Gomez

# Does Your Nose Job Stink?

## Rhinoplasty surgeon and author Dr. Juan Sanchez offers tips on how to smell a phony when it comes to cosmetic surgery



Eugene Araneta

Sanchez: Know your nose

WITH sexy stars and celebrities publicly thanking their doctors for a nose job, breast implants, and a tummy tuck, it's undeniable that cosmetic surgery has become as routine and commonplace as an appendectomy.

But the popularity of cosmetic surgery has resulted in unscrupulous medical practitioners going into the field even without the proper training, warns plastic surgeon Dr. Juan Sanchez, author of the books "Oriental Rhinoplasty" and "Asian Rhinoplasty, A Guide for Aesthetic Surgeons."

Unhappy patients who had expected more from the costly procedures then begin the excruciating process of looking for other surgeon to fix or repair the bungled job.

Sanchez, who receives an average of eight to 10 patients a day, says that about 40 percent of them come in for corrective surgery of bad nose jobs performed by other surgeons. Among the most common bad surgeries are distorted nose bridges, uneven nostrils, super thin noses, and the most serious: swelling and a deeply scarred nose.

Sixteen years of plastic surgery practice and formal training here and in the US have made Sanchez an expert in rhinoplasty and cleft lip surgery, on which he has written several articles. The doctor is the current consultant in plastic surgery at the Fe del Mundo Medical Center, the Philippine Heart Center, the Philippine Children's Medical Center and the AFP Medical Center.

Sanchez says the most popular cosmetic procedure is rhinoplasty, with women aged 18 to 30 availing themselves of this nose job. The second most revised or improved area is that around the eyes, with surgeons asked to add eyelids or remove eye bags. Procedures that involve body contouring, which includes breast implants, tummy tucks, and liposuction, rank as third most popular, he notes.

Although these procedures have become fairly common, Sanchez says people contemplating a nose job or breast implants should be concerned not just about the procedure, but more about the surgeon's qualifications to do the operation. They would best be served by keeping in mind these reminders, he adds:

1. **Check the credentials of the doctor, including his training.**

Not all surgeons can do cosmetic surgery, says Sanchez. Plastic surgery is a specialized field that entails advanced training in a well structured program. People should beware of fake surgeons. Look for the doctor's diploma and certificates of training. Check also where the doctor does his or her operations. If he or she seems evasive about this or would rather tell you last minute where your operation will be done, be warned.

2. **Check the doctor's body of work.**

Plastic surgery not only involves skill but art as well, says Sanchez. "It's a mixture of science and art. The doctor has to possess that gift of imagination to make a beautiful nose the safe way."

Sanchez says that patients have to ask the doctor for photos of the results of previous surgeries—the before-and-after photos—to find out if the doctor has that artistic gift.

3. **Be realistic with your goal.** Sanchez recalls encountering patients who often ask him to copy the nose of a celebrity. Yes, that can be done, but this doctor strongly recommends a result that is "anatomically configured" to the rest of the face—meaning a nose that is not too thin, too high, or too big, but is just right and adds harmony, balance and proportion to the rest of one's facial features.

"The ideal aesthetic nose is a mix between Asian and Caucasian noses. It has a modest bridge height, minimal blaring and the tip is refined."

4. **Thorough consultation and planning are important.**

Ideally, during consultation, patient and doctor should agree with the result expected after surgery. After all, the purpose of cosmetic surgery is to make a person happy and satisfied with the result.

A patient should not just rely on a computer printout of the suggested transformation, says Sanchez. It would be better if the doctor can produce a visualization through a line drawing and a cast of what your nose would look after surgery. •

*For inquiries, call Dr. Sanchez at tel. no. 9217252 and mobile no. 0918-9377415.*

FEATURE

By Marian C. Martin

# A Different Kind of Drug Watch

The Bureau of Food and Drugs ensures the safety of what you find on drugstore and grocery shelves

**Bottled faith: The BFAD looks at every drug formulation before its release**

THERE was a time when drugstores sold mainly medicine. Now, they have evolved into mini department stores, cosmetic bars and groceries selling anything from diabetic medication to chocolates and umbrellas. A parallel evolution in the production of health-related products has led to an enormous consumption of food supplements, herbal concoctions and energy boosters.

The health product market has grown so diverse and huge that Filipino consumers have fallen prey to slick marketing campaigns. With movie stars, celebrities and broadcast journalists swearing by the latest dietary supplements, who's to tell what's safe and effective, what's real and what's just hype? The recent recall of several food products and toys from China also begs the question: when it comes to health, who's looking out for the welfare of ordinary consumers?

In the Philippines, the task of monitoring drugs, diagnostic reagents, medical devices, cosmetics and household hazardous substances falls squarely on the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), the watchdog agency in the country.

In an e-mail interview, Pharmacist VI Virginia Francia C. Laboy, OIC of BFAD's Policy, Planning and Advocacy Division, states that the agency traces its mandate to two laws: Republic Act No. 3720 and Republic Act No. 7394. RA 3720 is also known as the Foods, Drugs and Devices, Cosmetics Act as amended by EO 175, which created the BFAD, while RA 7394 is otherwise described as the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Among BFAD's many tasks are the evaluation and registration of products, their analysis and testing, the issuance of health advisories, and the monitoring of advertisements and promotions to make sure that the product information given is true and accurate.

Laboy reveals that all food products, including imported ones, must be registered with the BFAD, which checks if they contain only safe ingredients and have passed the standards in food preparation. The agency also analyzes food products based on their microbiological specifications and allowable limits of additives. Product samples collected from the market are tested continuously in the agency's laboratories to make sure they are not adulterated and conform to safety standards. "We do not consider food as 'fake' but 'adulterated' or 'misbranded'," says the BFAD official.

Products which are the subject of complaints or disputes are also tested here, with the testing period usually extending from two to four weeks. Laboy cites the case of the drug Cytotec as one instance when consumer reports decided its fate. Originally approved for the treatment and prevention of gastritis induced by nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, Cytotec came under fire after reports that it was being used as an abortifacent. The reports prompted the BFAD to issue in 1994 a memorandum circular limiting the sale and dispensing of the drug to tertiary hospital pharmacies and big drugstore chains.

In 1998, Cytotec's manufacturer, GD Searle Philippines. Inc., voluntarily withdrew the product from the market, although reports reached BFAD that the drug was still being sold by sidewalk vendors. Says Laboy: "In August 2002, BFAD warned the public against dispensing/selling and using the drug product because it was no longer registered with BFAD. If a drug is not registered with us, we cannot assure its safety, efficacy and quality."

The episode illustrates the limitations of the agency's powers, points out Laboy. "We have been receiving reports that this product is still available in the market but the establishments where it is being sold (sidewalks, etc.) are no longer within BFAD jurisdiction. They fall under the Local Government Units." Nonetheless, violators of RA 3720 face a jail term of from six months and one day to more than five years, or a fine of not less than a thousand pesos.

Another challenge that BFAD faces, adds Laboy, is its limited resources, particularly in terms of personnel needed to monitor erring products. It is still up to an alert public to keep itself informed and updated on which products promote health or otherwise endanger it, she adds. •

*Vigilant consumers who wish to report fake or suspicious products can call the BFAD Hotline in their Regulation Division 1, Tel. (632) 8070725 or the Center for Health Development in each region.*

**Homing In on the Right HMO** (from page 5)

on HMOs. "Ask your friends who have had experiences with a particular HMO if they are good payers, if they keep good doctors, and if member-patients get to choose which doctors to go to," GP Ong cautions. "Are they widely accessible and are available in many hospitals and shopping malls? During health crises, the nearer the health facility, the better," she points out.

Cruz and Zoleta explain that one type of medical insurance policy, generally called the "indemnity coverage," means that the insured can go to any doctor, hospital or health care provider, and the insurance company and the patient would share the tabs.

In addition to indemnity plans, there are basically three types of managed care plans: PPOs, HMOs, and POS plans. Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) are similar to an indemnity plan. A PPO has arrangements with doctors, hospitals and other care providers who have agreed to accept lower fees from the insurer for their services. As a result, the patients' incurred costs should be lower than those outside the network.

HMOs offer members a range of health benefits, including preventive care, for a set monthly fee. There are many kinds of HMOs. If doctors are employees of the health plan and you visit them at central medical offices or clinics, it is a staff or group HMO. Other HMOs go into contracts with physician groups or individual doctors who have private offices. These are called individual practice associations (IPAs) or networks.

A POS (point of service) plan of health insurance is the hybrid of HMOs and PPOs. With POS, the patient may choose a primary care physician, and can still be covered even if he/she chooses a provider out of the system, for special care. This type of plan is cheaper than a PPO as far as premiums go; but the out of pocket expenses, should the patient decide to go outside his approved network of healthcare providers, would be much higher.

There is no "best" plan for any individual. It depends on one's medical needs at the moment and in the future, and on one's capacity to pay. But before you do sign that health insurance policy, read and understand the health manuals/booklets that the HMOs and other health plan organizations hand out. The benefits of being in good health, and the costs of being in a health crisis situation, could lie in the fine print. •

**List of Clearance to Operate-HMO Health Maintenance Organizations CY 2007**
**Source: Bureau of Health Facilities and Services, Department of Health**

1. Medicard Philippines, Inc. (http://www.medicardphils.com)
2. Getwell Foundation, Inc.
3. Mancare Health Systems, Inc.
4. Medocare Systems Inc. (http://www.medobserver.com/mar2005/indnews.html)
5. Fortune Medicare, Inc. (http://www.fcarehmo.com.ph/)
6. Blue Cross Health Care Inc
7. Metro Care Health Systems Inc.
8. Asalus Corp (Intellicare)
9. Kaiser International Healthgroup Inc (http://kaiserhealthgroup.com/images/faq.htm)
10. Philamcare Health Systems Inc.
(www.philamlife.com.ph/philamcare/html/corp/aboutus/companybg.html
11. St. Patrick's Healthcare Systems, Inc (SPCARE) (http://www.spcare-ph.com/)
12. Maxicare Healthcare Corp
13. Medical Services Marketing and Development Inc. (MedServ)
(http://medserv.com.ph/index.php)
14. Prudentialife Healthcare Inc.
(http://www2.prudentialife.com/prudentialifecare/acc_hospitals_clinic.asp)
15. Value Care Health Systems, Inc (http://www.valucare.com.ph/)
16. Health Maintenance, Inc. (first HMO in the country)
17. Insular Life Health Care Inc (http://www.insularlife.com.ph/wwa7.html)

**The Real Alternative** (from page 8)

how difficult or resistant our audience."

Lim's interest in finding cures to serious illnesses is shared by his wife, a certified cytotechnologist, who is trained to work with pathologists to detect changes in cellular material in the early diagnosis of cancer and other diseases. Lim has five sons: Kennedy, a physician in Louisiana; accountants James, Patrick and Mark; and Jeffrey who is studying marketing at the Flinders University in South Australia.

In his spare time, the very spiritual Lim likes to listen to music, do oil pastel paintings and attend prayer meetings. He takes part in medical missions in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija every year and in Manila's Binondo parish once a month for the Knights of Columbus. He also spearheads a de-worming project for children in five barangays in New Manila, Quezon City under the Holy Name Society,

**Book bound: Lim's life work**

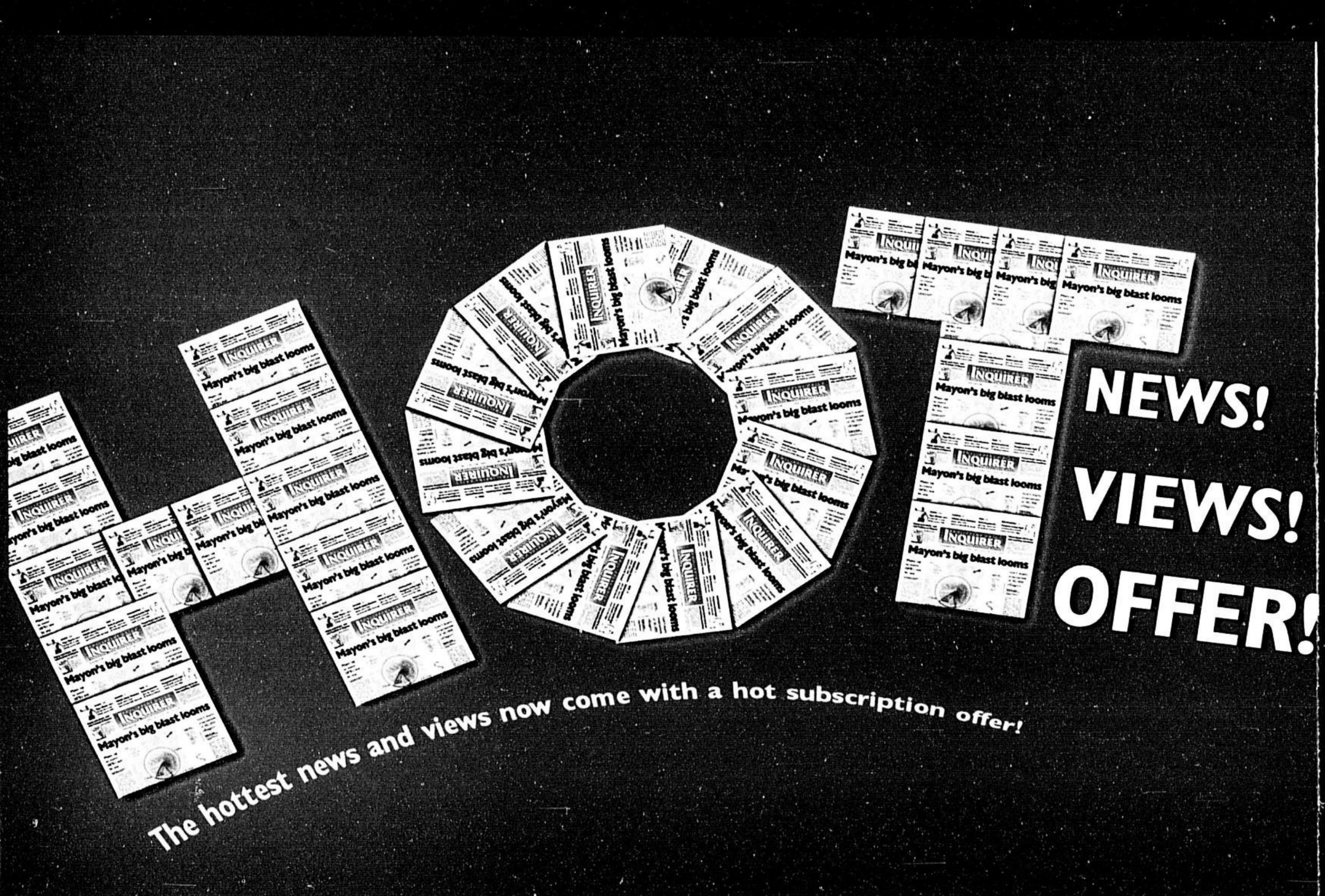
and in the Buddhist Courtyard in Paco, Manila.

Certainly one who practices what he preaches, Lim stays active, eats a balanced diet, gets enough rest and exercise and has a "regular intake of CAM products such as colostrum and probiotics. "I never stop praying everyday," he adds.

The doctor is excited by the prospect of a CAM center at UST. "I will continue to be a doctor as long as I am capable," he says. The truth is, he remains fulfilled by his daily quest to heal and by the learning between students and their teachers. He treasures "the smiles of a sick patient and the recovery of another one."

Many people may remain adamantly against the idea of CAM, but Dr. Lim vows never to give up: "Even the best of my colleagues now agree that CAM is beneficial for good health." •

*Dr. Victoriano Y. Lim holds office at Room 6009, Medical Arts Building, UST Hospital. For inquiries, call 731-3001 local 2468. His book, "Introduction to Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)," is available from National Book Store.*

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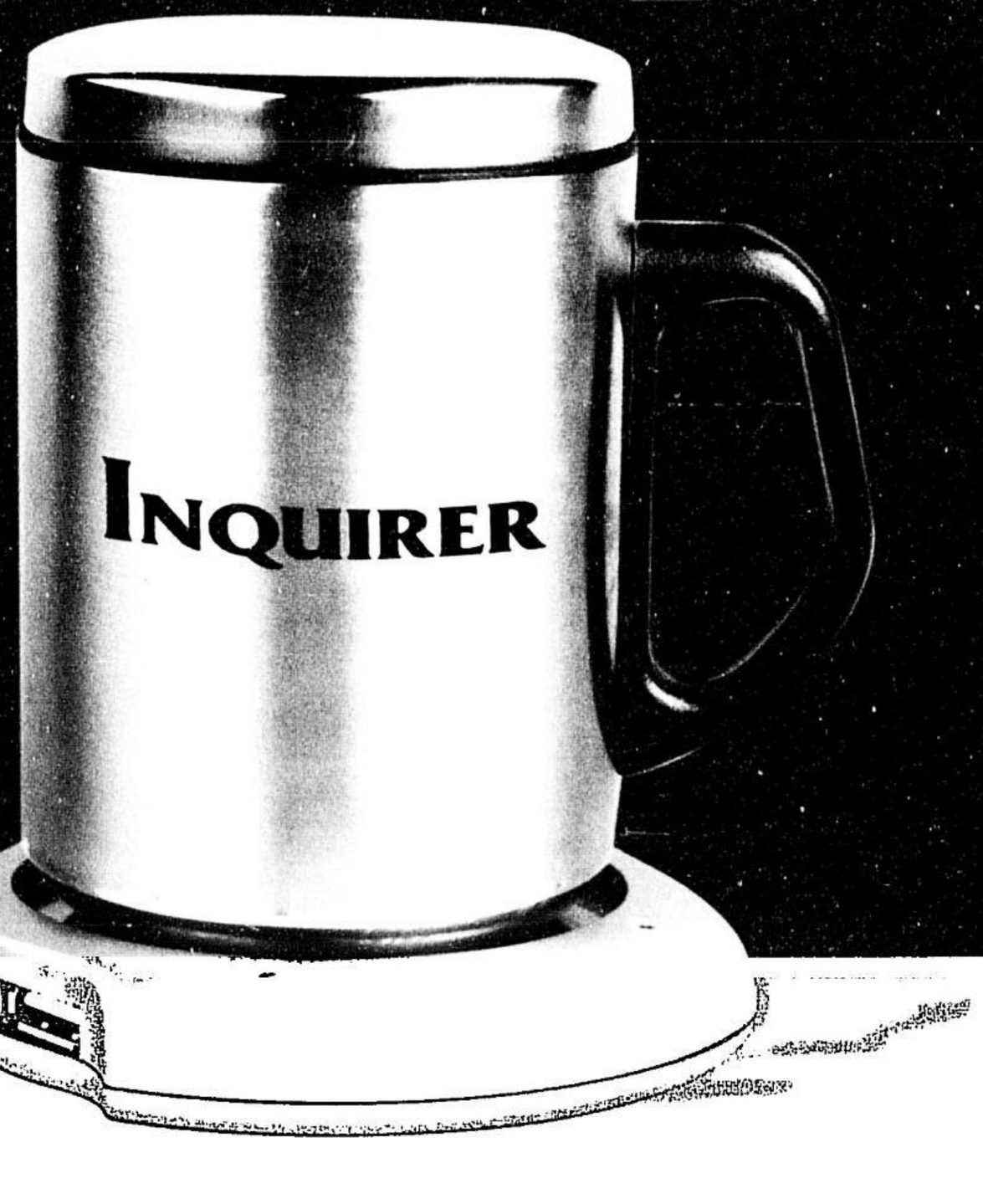


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